

Erbakan plans four-way summit

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan is planning a four-way summit with the leaders of Iran, Iraq and Syria over the situation in northern Iraq, the Turkish press reported Sunday. "Erbakan is holding talks in Iran for a summit meeting, and I will discuss the issue with Iraqi leaders," Justice Minister Sevtik Kazan told the liberal Istanbul daily Yeni Yuzyl. The prime minister is currently on a three-day visit to Tehran and Mr. Kazan left for Baghdad on Sunday. "Erbakan believes that the problem in northern Iraq should be solved through joint efforts by the region's countries, namely Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria," the Istanbul daily Milliyet said. Mr. Erbakan's move for four-way cooperation, excluding the United States from the process, could cause a big rift between Washington and Ankara, diplomatic sources said. Turkey rebuffs U.S. call, see page 12

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2 guerrillas killed in S. Lebanon

SIDON (AFP) — Two members of a Damascus-based Palestinian alliance were killed Sunday in an attack in the Israeli-occupied zone in South Lebanon, a source close to the organisation said. It was the first operation claimed by a Palestinian group in the zone in six months. The joint military command of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) confirmed the dawn attack on an Israeli armoured patrol near Tallouse, on the border of the occupied zone's central sector. "A heroic battle was waged for several hours by our commandos against the occupation forces which were bringing reinforcements to their positions," the joint command's statement from Sidon said.

Iraq faces Jordan for Asian Cup slot

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq beat Pakistan 3-0 on Sunday, setting itself to face Jordan for the last berth in the Asian Cup finals. Hussam Fawzi and Radhi Swadi scored the two goals one minute apart midway through the second half. Saheb Abbas scored the first half a minute before halftime. Iraq will meet Jordan on Tuesday in the final game of group six, with the winner advancing to the 12-team Asian Cup finals in the United Arab Emirates in December. South Korea qualified earlier Sunday with a victory over Vietnam, joining China, Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, Syria, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, defending champion Japan and host UAE. A draw on Tuesday would send Jordan to the finals on the basis of better goal differential. Jordan beat Pakistan 4-0 on Friday.

10 missing Israelis buried in Syria — journalist

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The bodies of 10 Israelis, including five missing soldiers, are buried in a cemetery outside Damascus, an Arab-Israeli journalist who visited the site told Israel Radio Sunday. Ghassam Bessul, from the northern Israeli city of Nazareth, said he was shown the graves two years ago in a cemetery just outside Al Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp by the leader of an unidentified Palestinian organisation in Syria. "The three soldiers missing after the battle of Sultan Yaqub (in 1982 in Lebanon) and two soldiers who died in a clash at Al Karameh (in Jordan in 1968) are among the 10 bodies," he said. He said another of the bodies was that of a woman, but provided no more information.

Huge haul of hashish seized in Pakistan

KARACHI (AP) — Police in southern Sind province discovered a cache of 9,930 kilograms of hashish during a three-day anti-narcotics operation, a senior customs official said Sunday. The drugs were found in the cellar of a home just outside the port city of Karachi. No arrests were made, but customs inspector Afzal Amir Shah told reporters a list of suspects had been drafted, fetched about \$10 million.

Heavy fighting resumes in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Heavy fighting between rival Somali factions resumed in earnest Sunday after more than a week of calm in the aftermath of the burial of warlord General Mohammad Farah Aidede. Reports reaching here said there were heavy clashes Sunday in the southwestern Balad district between troops led by Hussein Mohamed Aidede — who now heads his father's United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance faction — and those of self-styled Somali interim president Ali Mahdi Mohamed's Somali Salvation Alliance. The were no immediate official casualty figures, but witnesses said a number of people had either been killed or wounded, and hundreds of families displaced by the fighting. Late on Sunday, Aidede supporters claimed here that they were in control of the district, but opposing forces maintained Aidede troops had retreated with heavy losses to Afgoye district, 30 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu. The claims could not be confirmed by independent sources.

King Hussein, King Fahd hold talks in Jeddah

Summit seals reconciliation; discussions focus on bilateral ties, peace process and Gulf security

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

JEDDAH — His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia held their first summit in six years on Sunday shortly after King Hussein arrived here on a landmark visit that sealed Jordanian-Saudi reconciliation after a strain caused by the 1991 Gulf crisis. King Hussein, who is accompanied by a high-level delegation, was received upon arrival here by a top-level Saudi delegation headed by King Fahd, Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Prince Sultan, other members of the royal family and senior Saudi officials. After a full-honour welcome ceremony, the two monarchs proceeded to Al Salam Palace — where King Hussein will stay during his two-day visit — and held an initial round of talks. King Fahd hosted a dinner Sunday night in honour of King Hussein and the delegation accompanying him. Another round of talks followed the dinner. King Fahd was not able to receive King Hussein on his first official visit to Saudi Arabia in five years last February because he was still recovering from a stroke he suffered last November. Details of Sunday's discussions in Jeddah were not

immediately available, but officials from both sides said earlier the two leaders were to discuss bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process, the security situation in the Gulf region following extremist bombings in Saudi Arabia and other issues of common concern.

The King is accompanied on the visit by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal, Prince Hamzeh and Prince Hashem, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, the King's advisor on tribal affairs, Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarairah, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and Royal Court Imam Ahmad Helayel.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in to serve as Regent before the King's departure.

The visit comes amid a flurry of diplomatic shuffling in the region by Arab leaders to break the deadlock in the Middle East negotiations following the election in May of Israel's new prime minister, right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

King Hussein met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Wednesday, two days after Mr. Netanyahu visited the

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Israel says oil discovered near Dead Sea

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israel National Oil Company Dead Sea said on Sunday it discovered oil near the Dead Sea in Israel. "Oil is flowing freely without the need of a pump at a rate of 450 barrels a day," said Yaron Ran, managing-director of the government-owned company, which owns seven per cent of the project. Mr. Ran said that on Friday

oil was found at the exploration well at the level of 1,950-1,960 metres. "This is a very good find for the area of the Dead Sea. This is a good sign for the future but we have to be very careful about our optimism, we have to wait and see how it develops," Mr. Ran said. He said the publically traded company retained 78 per cent of the well's ownership rights

while the remainder of the shares were held by several other companies. The Israel National Oil Company Dead Sea, which is traded on Israel's Karam index of small cap stocks, issued a statement to the Tel Aviv stock exchange. After the announcement trading in its shares and in its partners' shares halted.

Netanyahu says accord impossible on Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in his first interview with the Palestinian press, predicted Sunday that Israel and the Palestinians would never reach agreement on the future of Jerusalem. Mr. Netanyahu told Al Quds newspaper published in Arab East Jerusalem that he was in favour of "a Palestinian entity alongside the Jewish state" which would allow Palestinians to administer their own affairs "freely and with dignity", but would leave Israel in control of security matters. On the issue of Jerusalem, which Israelis and Palestini-

ans alike claim as their capital, Mr. Netanyahu insisted "there is no chance of reaching an agreement with the Palestinian (National) Authority on the definitive status of Jerusalem." "It appears that this is one of the issues which simply cannot be resolved," he said. It was the first time Mr. Netanyahu suggested a solution on Jerusalem was not possible, and it brought swift reaction from the Palestinians. "It is very unfortunate that in his first address to the Palestinians that he would speak the way he spoke and tell the Palestinians in effect that we no longer have

peace process," said Saeb Erakat, a member of the Palestinian self-rule cabinet. Mr. Erakat said the statement on Jerusalem undercut Israel's pledge to discuss the future of the city in final status talks which have been suspended since the new government came to power after the May 29 elections. The Palestinians hope to make Arab East Jerusalem, which Israel seized during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and later "annexed", the capital of an independent Palestinian state. Mr. Netanyahu insists that all

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Cyprus rally turns violent

DHERINIA (Agencies) — A Greek Cypriot man was killed and 15 people were wounded in clashes with Turkish Cypriots on Sunday across the ceasefire line that has divided the island since Turkey invaded the north in 1974. Dozens of U.N. peacekeepers formed a human chain and tried to separate the two sides in a barren stretch of the buffer zone 50 kilometres southeast of Nicosia. But the protesters threw stones and fired slingshots and guns at one another after about 200 Greek Cypriots and 500 Turkish Cypriots poured into the U.N.-patrolled "green line" dividing the island. A Greek Cypriot protester trapped in barbed wire was beaten to death by rival demonstrators with an iron bar, sticks and stones, television pictures showed. Hospital workers said Tassos Isaac, 24, died of head injuries. At least 12 other Greek Cypriots were injured, five of them by gunshot wounds, in the Dherinia clashes near the deserted coastal resort of Famagusta. The Turkish Cypriot news agency TAK said 12 people on the Turkish northern side were also injured, including five policemen, but none of them was in serious condition. In nearby Akhna, also in the buffer zone, another three people were wounded by rubber bullets, two of them policemen for the British military base in the

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Kabariti to announce decision on bread price soon after Saudi visit

'Government will not accept compromise over basic goal of removing subsidies as part of economic restructuring'

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti is expected to announce a decision on increasing the price of bread soon after his return from Saudi Arabia and the decision will entail no compromise over the basic goal of removing subsidies as part of the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme, an informed source said Sunday. "The prime minister is determined to meet the basic requirement of economic restructuring and he will announce his decision as soon as he comes back from Saudi Arabia," said the source. "There will be no compromise over the issue of removing subsidies," added the source, who did not want to be identified. "As far as the prime minister is concerned it is an executive decision within the constitutional and legal jurisdiction of the government, and Parliament can exercise its options within the same framework," added the source. "But there will be no more debates and protracted deliberations over the issue," and Parliament

"cannot have a share in the executive decision-making." The source was speaking one day after Mr. Kabariti and a special committee of the Lower House of Parliament failed to reach agreement on the proposed increase in the price of bread to reflect the mounting international price of wheat and avert a widened deficit in the Kingdom's fiscal budget. Saturday's meeting crowned two months of deliberations between the government and the legislative authority over the issue, and, according to the source, the prime minister was exasperated over the deputies' non-acceptance of the principle of removing subsidies. The deputies proposed a 45 fils to 65 fils per kilogram increase in the price of bread (from the present 85 fils per kilo) with cash compensation to be paid to the poor who would be hit by the hike at a rate of JD 1.28 per month for every Jordanian. But the prime minister insisted on a 95-fils increase that would effectively remove all subsidies for bread while accepting the cash compensation arrangement, which the government had origi-

nally proposed. The source noted that the 130-150 fils price proposed by the House committee would still entail that the government continue to subsidise the bread and thus Saturday's deadlock between the prime minister and the panel. According to sources close to Mr. Kabariti, the prime minister "respects the full authority and prerogatives of Parliament, but, at the same time, he is confronting the House over the issue of subsidies since it has a direct relation to national interests." "The prime minister wants to ensure that the subsidy for bread is removed once and for all," said the source. "He will not accept anything less than that." "Parliament, which is free to challenge the government, can of course follow its own course," added the source, noting that Mr. Kabariti himself had offered to face a no-confidence vote in the Lower House over the issue. Parliamentary sources said the Lower House committee intended to place its proposals to the full House and seek a vote on them as

(Continued on page 3)

Ethiopia announces end to offensive against Somali group

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Ethiopia has said it had ended a two-day military offensive into neighbouring Somalia intended to hit at Muslim fundamentalists blamed for violence in Ethiopia. The Addis Ababa government said it might take further action against what it called a "multinational terrorist group" operating from Somalia. In its first comment on the incursion, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement late on Saturday night that military forces had hit targets in Somalia on Thursday and Friday. "The limited counter-offensive aimed essentially at destroying the bases and sanctuaries of the multinational terrorist group was fully successful," the ministry said. The statement did not give details of the operation or Ethiopian casualties.

The Muslim fundamentalist Al Itihad Al Islami (Islamic Union) movement said Ethiopian forces had seized three towns in western Somalia during the operation. Al Itihad spokesman Khalif Mohammad said in the Somali capital Mogadishu that the Ethiopians had later withdrawn from Belet-Hawa and Dollow and Itihad fighters had regained control of Luq town after heavy battles. He told reporters on Saturday that Al Itihad militiamen killed at least 150 Ethiopian soldiers, destroyed a T-54 tank, downed a helicopter gunship, and seized six Ethiopian army vehicles, but there was no independent confirmation of this. Aid officials based in the northeastern Kenyan border town of Mandera said staff visited Belet-Hawa on Saturday and saw the bod-

ies of 18 Al Itihad fighters in the police station. The three towns are in the Gedo region. Luq is 60 kilometres south of the Ethiopian border while Dollow is 40 kilometres to the southeast. The Ethiopian incursion, supported by the Somali National Front since Thursday, was apparently revenge for recent attacks, including a bomb blast at a hotel in the Ethiopian capital on Aug. 4 and the attempted assassination of an Ethiopian government minister on July 8. Foreign aid workers evacuated from Luq by air to Nairobi said they saw Ethiopian helicopter gunships and heavy artillery pounding the area on Friday. Aid officials speaking by telephone from the northeastern Kenyan town of Mandera, one kilometre

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His Majesty King Hussein with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in Jeddah on Sunday (Petra wirephoto)

Rabin assassin 'fan club' triggers uproar in Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Outraged Israeli officials called Sunday for an investigation into a fan club set up by three teenage girls for Yigal Amir, convicted assassin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"This is sickening," President Ezer Weizman said in a statement issued Sunday after the three 17-year-old high school students appeared on Israeli Television Friday night to talk about their fascination with Amir.

"We must absolutely get to the root of this phenomena and investigate what is going on in their school," a conservative religious institution in Kiryat Gat south of Tel Aviv. Mr. Weizman said.

The girls told the television interviewer how they collected photos of the imprisoned Amir, 25, wrote him love letters and attended his court appearances.

Mr. Amir, a right-wing Jewish radical, opposed to the late Prime Minister Rabin's policy of granting autonomy to Palestinians in the occupied territories, shot and killed the prime minister following an outdoor pro-peace rally on Nov. 4.

He was immediately arrested, confessed to the crime and was sentenced to life in prison earlier this year.

"Yigal Amir is our hero because he saved the nation by daring to do what had to be done," said one of the three girls, whose full identities were not given.

"The real murderer was Rabin, as because of his policies Israelis were killed in attacks," added a second.

"I went to his trial and it was fun. He smiled at me. I love him," said another. "He's smart, he's handsome, he's everything," she said.

Mr. Rabin's widow Leah reacted angrily, saying the three young women were

representative of a "fanatic religious and anti-democratic milieu which is not a marginal segment of Israeli society."

"The problem is that these mindless girls are not the only ones to admire the murderer," she said in a radio interview. "The fact that they dared speak out on television shows that they know that a lot of people feel the assassination was justified," she said.

In their television interview, the three girls claimed that the teachers at their religious school were not critical of the Rabin assassination.

Officials at the 800-student school, which is linked to the National Religious Party of Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, immediately denied that any teachers had shown sympathy for Amir's actions.

Rachel Bubbut, headmistress of the school, said: "It's really a few isolated girls."

Mr. Hammer, whose political movement runs religious schools for some 250,000 students, joined Mr. Weizman and other ministers in the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in calling for an investigation into whether teachers had encouraged the Amir groupies.

"I am very upset and worried by this," Mr. Hammer told Israel Radio. "It is necessary to take a serious look at what happened in (the girls') school, but it would be premature to draw any general conclusions about our education system from this incident," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu, who in May defeated Rabin's successor Shimon Peres, said in a statement on Sunday: "The prime minister views this as a very serious phenomenon which has to be uprooted immediately."

Two of the three girls who appeared on television are

from the Kiryat Gat school and the third is from a nearby community.

Amir's mother, Geula, told the Yediot Ahronot newspaper that "Yigal has lots of fans." She said the family receives many letters for Yigal from "older and younger women, secular women who express their support for Yigal's act."

During the television interview the girls displayed scrapbooks with Amir's pictures and wrote to him in jail.

"What a smile — a sweet smile, really attractive," one of the youngsters, her face hidden by a hat, told a television interviewer. "People get so upset. It kills them inside how a man like him could smile, the nerve he has after what he did."

Rabin's son Yuval blamed the religious education system and institutions and said Israel had learned nothing from his father's death.

"It's not possible to brush away these things by saying that there is only one rotten apple (for if we do) we will all be guilty of the next murder," Yuval Rabin told the daily Maariv.

On Saturday, peace activists held a candlelight vigil outside the school in memory of the late premier. The daily Maariv reported a few dozen counter-demonstrators shouted death threats against Shulamit Aloni, a peace activist and former communications minister.

Police spokesman Eric Bar Chen said police have no plans to investigate the fan club. On Saturday night police found a dummy bomb outside the Amir family home near Tel Aviv. Israel's Itim News Agency said it was a bottle connected to wires with a picture of Rabin inside. It said the family linked the scare to the television programme.



CYPRIT PROTEST: A mob of Turkish civilians beat Greek Cypriot protestor Tassos Isaac, a restaurant owner, Sunday at the ceasefire line that has divided the island since Turkey invaded the north in 1974. Isaac was killed and 41 people were wounded in clashes with Turkish Cypriots after about 200 Greek Cypriots defied an order to cancel a protest rally against Turkey's occupation of the north and entered a U.N. buffer zone where they started fires (see page 1 story) (Reuters photo)

Hekmatyar sorry over destruction of Kabul

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's new Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar spoke on Sunday for the first time since the first of the month of fighting that followed the coup, which witnessed thousands of civilians killed in intense rocket barrages on the city, analysts said.

The premier said he was pleasantly surprised at the warmth with which the people of the embattled capital greeted him when he returned to the city as prime minister for the first time since 1975.

"The welcome accorded to me by the people" was unexpected by me especially under the hardship conditions of fighting and rocketing of Kabul," he said. "I was very pleased," he reiterated.

More than 64 civilians were killed on the day Mr. Hekmatyar drove into Kabul in an intense barrage by the Taleban militia who are besieging Kabul from the same bases Mr. Hekmatyar once held around the city, officials said.

Mr. Hekmatyar said that his current goal was to rebuild the shattered capital, restore its services and amenities, and improve the lives of its impoverished and war-weary population.

"There is no doubt that I have taken office at a very difficult time and that I have a difficult job to do," he said. "But I am hopeful that in the future these problems we face can be solved one after the other."

His priorities include attracting other opposition parties into the interim coalition government, halting rocket attacks on Kabul, improving the lives of Kabulis, and fighting poverty, he said.

Algeria cafe bombs may have come from Libya

ALGIERS (AFP) — The bombs used in last week's attacks on cafes in Algiers contained plastic explosives that may have entered the country from Libya, the daily Al Watan reported Sunday.

"This powerful explosive could only have entered by sea or by road, by crossing the land border with Libya," the paper said. The paper feared that more of the material was stashed away in the Algerian capital, most likely in the old Kasbah area, which it said "offers the best security conditions for armed groups."

The attacks have been attributed to armed groups targeting public places as part of a campaign to unsettle the government, which four years ago annulled elections that the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front was proposed to win.

Al Watan said armed groups had intimidated residents of the Kasbah "through a series of exterminations of entire families."

The paper added that police conducted a sweep overnight Friday and picked up several young people suspected of belonging to a "logistics network."

The Liberte daily reported Saturday that a "huge sweep" took place last week in the Kasbah and that several people suspected of being part of a "support network" had been arrested.

Thousands rally in support of Somali Islamic courts

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Thousands of Somalis poured into the streets of north Mogadishu on Sunday to demonstrate in support of continuation of Islamic courts that were established in the northern half of the capital two years ago.

During the demonstrations, the largest ever seen in this part of the city, jubilant supporters of Sharia law and its courts carried the chairman of the Islamic courts, Sheikh Ali Sheikh Mohamud, shoulder-high along the streets up to Benadir Stadium where he later addressed them.

On arrival at the stadium, the demonstrators presented Sheikh Ali with a copy of the Holy Koran and implored him to continue his efforts to strengthen the implementation of Sharia laws in the part of the city, controlled by war-

lord and self-styled Somali interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad's Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA).

The southern part of the city is controlled by the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) faction controlled by Hussein Mohamed Aided, son of General Mohammed Farah Aided, who died here on Aug. 1 from gunshot wounds he received on July 25 in fighting in the south Mogadishu's Medina district.

Addressing the demonstrators, Sheikh Ali said that 5,533 cases had reached the supreme Islamic courts of north Mogadishu, of which 4,980 cases were end with penalties ranging from whipping, chopping off hands and legs and stoning to death.

Books on Shiites seized in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police have confiscated five books from two Cairo book shops and twice interrogated the owner of the stores, a major publisher in the Arab World.

The case was reported Sunday in the government weekly Rose Al Youssef, and confirmed by the publisher, Mohammad Madbouli.

Police had no immediate comment despite telephone queries and a request for information faxed to them.

Mr. Madbouli said the police presented him with no court order, despite pledges by President Hosni Mubarak at a book fair earlier this year that no book would be banned without court authorisation.

All of the books seized were about the Shiite sect of Islam, which split from the mainstream Sunni sect shortly after the death of the Prophet Mohammed in the 7th century. Shiites number about 25 per cent of the world's one billion Muslims, but there are few in Egypt, which is dominated by Sunnis.

Mr. Madbouli said he was forced to sign a pledge not to sell the books any more in any of his several bookstores in Egypt. He said that he was called in twice by police and questioned for 25 hours over two days.

He said he did not feel it was his job as a publisher or bookseller to act as a censor. "I am only a publisher. I don't make a personal judgement on what should be written or an author should write or not," he told the Associated Press.

Police came to Mr. Madbouli's main shop in downtown Cairo last Monday and demanded copies of six books, the publisher said. He said one book was sold out, but police searched the store and confiscated all copies of the other five volumes. Later, he said, they went to another of his shops and seized the same five titles.

Three of the books by Egyptian author Saleh Al Yardani deal with Shiite history and theology, and one of them, "Shiites in Egypt," is about the persecution of the sect in Egypt over centuries.

Other titles, "The Shiites in Twelfth Century," and "The Star of Shiites," were written from English. The volumes seized were available for years controlled by Hussein Mohamed Aided, son of General Mohammed Farah Aided, who died here on Aug. 1 from gunshot wounds he received on July 25 in fighting in the south Mogadishu's Medina district.

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Fowler named U.S. envoy to S. Arabia

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING (AP) — Former Georgia Senator Wyche Fowler was officially named Saturday as the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, the White House said.

Senator Fowler's name was submitted as a "recess appointment" to the U.S. Senate on June 10 for confirmation, but since it failed to act, the White House proceeded with his appointment, it said in a statement in this Wyoming town where President Bill Clinton is vacationing.

A recess appointee is one named while Congress is in recess.

"President Clinton's decision to name Mr. Fowler to a recess appointment is a reflection of the importance the president attaches to maintaining the closest possible cooperation with Saudi Arabia at a

time of particular importance in U.S.-Saudi relations and in the Middle East generally," the White House said.

Those relations became noticeably more tense after a June 25 truck-bomb attack on an air base near Dhahran that left 19 U.S. military men dead, and a November car-bombing attack in Riyadh that killed five Americans and two others.

According to U.S. government leaks, the United States has criticised Saudi authorities for not fully cooperating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the Riyadh attack.

Four people were executed in connection with the bombing in May, but the FBI was not allowed to question them. Defence Secretary William Perry travelled to

the western Saudi city of Jeddah in late July where he wrapped up a an agreement on a base in the western desert, 80 kilometres south of Riyadh, for the 4,000 U.S. troops currently in more exposed housing in Dhahran and the Saudi capital.

There are currently 6,200 U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia.

Sen. Fowler, 55, will replace Ambassador Raymond Mabus. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, the new ambassador spent 16 years in Congress. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976, and then was elected to the Senate in 1986. He lost his seat to a Republican in 1992.

Like Ambassador Mabus, Sen. Fowler is close to President Clinton and is believed to have consistent access to him.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05Adventure On The Rainbow Pond
15:30Richie Rich
16:00Playabout
16:10Gillette World Sport
16:25Hey Dad
17:00Sciences Cartoon
17:15La Vie Devant Moi
17:30Game Show — Pyramide
18:00Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part Two
19:00Le Journal
19:15Magazine — Cinq Sur Cinq
19:30News Headlines
19:35 The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna
20:00Milner Fenwick
20:15Matlock
21:10Red Anvows Over America
22:00News in English
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
23:10Mancuso

PRAYER TIMES

04:27Fajr
05:53(Sunrise) Duha
12:41Dhuhr
16:21Asr

19:29Maghreb
20:54Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellfish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armanan International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824338
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly above average and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Min/Max. temp. Amman.....21/34 Aqaba.....27/41 Deserts.....19/37 Jordan Valley.....25/40 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Issam Al Asmar890504 Dr. Khalid Klob816715 Dr. Osama Al Hussein847289 Dr. Nidal As'ad751672

FERDOWS PHARMACY

Al Asema pharmacy787336
Naioukh pharmacy637055
Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy64945
Shmeisani pharmacy637660
Naioukh pharmacy847632
IRBID: Dr. Mazin Abu Bakr76832
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA: Dr. Hafez Salfid914144
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department.....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police.....192 621111
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints.....877467
Armanan Municipality Complaints

HOSPITAL

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre81381332
Khalidi Maternity.....6442816
Akileh Maternity.....6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....636140
Palestine, Shmeisani607071
Shmeisani Hospital669131
University Hospital848845
Al-Muasab Hospital6672279
The Islamic, Abdali66612637
Al-Ahli, Abdali6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen7771013

AL-BASHIR

775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital602240/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (RJ)(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (RJ)(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (RJ)(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (RJ)(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (RJ)(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (RJ)(02)247100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (RJ)(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:15Sanaa (RJ)
09:00Damascus (RJ)
09:30Jeddah (RJ)
10:10Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20Beirut (RJ)
10:30New Delhi (RJ)
15:00London (RJ)
17:20Cairo (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00Bangkok (RJ)
20:25Rhodes (add) (RJ)
22:00Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
23:25Casablanca (RJ)
04:10Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
Other Flights
11:45Khartoum (SD)
13:40 Shariqah, Bahrain (GF)
14:30Kiev (GU)
15:00Vienna (OS)
18:30Athens, Istanbul (Q7)
20:35Cairo (MS)
20:55Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:10Beirut (ME)
22:00Tel Aviv (LY)
23:30Athens, Beirut (OA)
01:20Amsterdam (KL)
05:40London (BA)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:50Aqaba (RW)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35Beirut (RJ)
11:00Casablanca (RJ)
11:20Amsterdam, Detroit (add) (RJ)
12:30Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15Cairo (RJ)
13:25London (RJ)
13:25Frankfurt (RJ)
16:00Rhodes (add) (RJ)
21:45Damascus (RJ)
21:45Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:15Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30 Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
01:00Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights
06:00Istanbul (TK)
07:45Beirut, London (BA)
08:45Beirut (ME)
13:00Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Bahrain Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:30Kiev (GU)
15:50Vienna (OS)
19:30Doha (Q7)
21:25Cairo (MS)
23:00Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55Damascus, Paris (AF)
02:30Amsterdam (KL)
04:00Beirut, Athens (OA)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
20:30Aqaba (RW)

WHAT'S

* "Medea" (Arabic Centre at 8:00 p.m.)
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* Worldnet dialogue Business" at the Amn P.m - 5:30 p.m.)
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* Presentation by N of several books for c lished book "Fun in Archaeology Center (EXH
* Abstract (plastic) "Between Past and Pr Centre, until Aug. 20
* Science for Heat Council, until Aug. 1
* Abstract (plastic) Nader Samarah on J Gallery, Umm Utheh 15.
* Graphic works by An Gallery (Tel 695.
* Photo exhibition "People and Places" 687598), until Aug.

Home News

Cattle breeders say battle ahead on new dairy prices



By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Following Saturday's announcement of a price hike in dairy products, the Federation of Cattle Breeders voiced dissatisfaction with the move saying that the increase still leaves no acceptable margin of profit for the dairy farmer.

The Ministry of Supply Saturday announced dairy product price increases including that of milk from 230 fils up to 275 fils per litre. It said that the hike was necessary to cover recent increases in the cost of animal feed.

Chairman of the cattle breeders federation, Ahmad Budeiri, told the Jordan

Times that federation members were dismayed by the new prices as they cover only production costs and leave no margin of profit for the farmers.

"The new prices cover neither the input costs nor the higher costs of cattle," Mr Budeiri said.

"To minimise further losses, we are forced to accept the new price," he added.

Mr. Budeiri said the farmers are prepared for a long battle with the Ministry of Supply.

He said the federation is demanding profit margin of 25 fils per litre. He complained that with the present price hike, "we could have gained more by depositing our money in the

bank."

But one dairy farmer told the Jordan Times that he found the new prices reasonable.

Ibrahim Hassan Atiyeh, the owner of Al Muruj dairies, said the new dairy prices are suitable and that he is confident that reasonable profit margins can be gained.

According to Mr. Atiyeh, Jordan's dairy farmers are generally satisfied with the set prices.

"However, I believe the volume of sales will decrease as the new prices will scare away limited income groups," Mr. Atiyeh added.

Mayor promises action against red tape



Mamdouh Abbadi

AMMAN (Petra) — Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi has complained that certain municipal employees have been increasing, rather than cutting, bureaucracy and that some have even demonstrated misconduct in their dealings with the public.

Dr. Abbadi said that he was personally receiving complaints and public grievances and taking appropriate disciplinary measures against such workers.

The mayor, who was addressing a rally attended by representatives of the Amman western districts of Tlaa Al Ali, Khaldia and Um Al Summaq, added that the municipality has been exhorting a reduction of red tape and has urged his staff to serve and assist the public.

He also lamented the vandalism to the public gardens around the city, and added that the municipality would continue to

public complaints and requests which included demands for widening streets, rodent extermination, parking lots along the Wasfi Tell (Gardens) Street and speed limit enforcement along that street which has been the scene of road accidents on an almost daily basis.

Complaints were also made about public cafés and night clubs close to residential areas and which were said to be disturbing the peace, while others called for the creation of more public gardens in the above-mentioned districts.

Dr. Abbadi replied that Wasfi Tell Street is in need of reorganisation that might give pedestrians more leeway. He promised to introduce speed limit measures and a more cars to park on the sides of the street in order to stimulate commerce.

Business groups oppose two-day weekend

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two business associations Saturday blasted the idea of introducing a two-day weekend as impractical and potentially detrimental to the economy.

The Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) issued a statement which said that the proposal was thoroughly discussed by the industrial sector and that the idea of a five-day work week would not boost production.

The chamber added that the Jordanian economy is currently entering a stage which demands increased production and therefore more work hours in order to augment exports.

"The Jordanian economy has been lagging because of political developments. The two-day weekend is bound to further complicate the economic situation at a time when the country must produce high quality products to compete with goods abroad in international markets," the ACI statement said.

According to an earlier ACI statement, "a two-day weekend is a luxury which we can ill-afford and for which we are not ready and can be realised only when the economy has reached advanced stages as did Western nations following the industrial revolution."

In Sunday's announcement the ACI said, "Jordan should follow the example of Asian countries like Singapore and South Korea where workers have a one-day weekend and are occasionally called to work

seven days a week to increase production."

Also involved was the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) which issued its own statement Saturday saying that "the Jordanian public has adapted its lifestyle and social mores such as family relations, education, and other matters to the one-day weekend which is decades-old and modifying this system overnight would not be easy."

"Indeed the introduction of a two-day weekend might ultimately bring additional burdens which the public can hardly accommodate at the moment. Closing businesses for two days means cutting off Jordan's business connections with the outside world for three days if the country is to observe Thursday and Friday as the two-day weekend."

The JBA statement continued saying "the two-day weekend would also harm the interests of working women who would be forced to stay away from their homes and children for longer hours and therefore could ultimately force them to quit their jobs. At the same time, a long weekend would result in an increase in both spending and consumption. It would adversely affect transportation schedules for families with children going to and from school."

News in Brief

Jordan, Sudan to discuss relations

AMMAN (PETRA) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb will chair Jordan's side of the joint Jordanian-Sudanese conference which will be held at the end of this month in Khartoum. The committee will discuss means of developing bilateral cooperation particularly in trade and transportation fields. Jordan will be represented by both public and private sectors.

Yemen contracts local institute

AMMAN (PETRA) — Director of the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Zuhair Kayed Abu Baqar Sunday returned home from Sana'a with two contracts - the first concerning the development of a legislation covering civil service and human resources and the second on establishing current files and records for civil servants in Yemen.

Conservationists prepare to release endangered Nubian ibex

By Tanya Habbouja
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — Rivers, wild animals, and waterfalls hide behind mountains and huge sandstones in a place that appears a mirage in the desert, and yet Wadi Mujib, home to the Nubian ibex, is a reality.

Wadi Mujib, located on the Dead Sea shore, extends along a varied landscape of 200-square-kilometres.

The ruins of four Ottoman castles are also enclosed here, such as Qasr Riyashi, located atop a rugged mountain where smooth, brown sandstone cliffs offer reprieve from the heat.

Lots ill-fated wife stands still, now a salty rock in the vague shape of the woman who once "looked back on the biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah."

Fresh water from the Mujib and Hidan rivers support wild life and vegetation, like the rare orchid *Epipactis veratifolia*.

These rivers are the drinking water for all the animals in the area, which include the endangered Nubian ibex, a stocky animal similar to an antelope, which grazes on the vegetation along the river.

Wadi Mujib is one of the seven reserves of Jordan protected by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Mujib is a special reserve for the ibex, providing what nature conservationists describe as an excellent location for its needs, with its rugged cliffs and lush vegetation.

The ibex were so severely hunted at one time, particularly during the 20's and 30's, that their numbers dwindled until they were nearly extinct.

Now in this special reserve, their numbers are increasing, and this species has been given a second chance for survival.

Early this coming October, the ibex is expected to be released from the enclosure to join its wild relatives and adapt to its natural environment.

Before this happens, the RSCN is working to ensure the ibex's safety through a public awareness programme.

One method is education in the public schools in the surrounding villages of Sahila, Karak, and Ghor Safi.

The RSCN, a non-governmental organisation, has been sanctioned by the

government to guide hunting laws in the country.

The society's main worry in releasing the ibex from its protected habitat is that some people will ignore the strict laws against hunting this still endangered animal.

Therefore, its awareness drive will also be directed at the media to explain the fragility of the plant and animal life of these special parts of Jordan.

"Mujib is important not only for the ibex, but for all plants and humans, as it completes the food chain and balance of nature," said Jelle Boef, a conservation volunteer at the RSCN.

"The RSCN is a volunteer society, for the people and by the people," added Selma Atie, head of public relations, who said that anyone with questions or interest in the organisation should contact the RSCN.

She added that any interested schools should contact the RSCN for free information on how to set up conservation and youth clubs.

According to RSCN officials, the society plans to monitor the ibex release experiment and determine its success.



The Nubian ibex in their protected habitat at the Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve (photo courtesy of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature)

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY

* "Medea" (Arabic) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

WORLDNET DIALOGUE

* Worldnet dialogue via satellite on "Women in Business" at the American Center, Abdoun (4:30 p.m - 5:30 p.m)

LECTURE

* "Presentation by Ms. Taghreed Najjar, author of several books for children, on her newly published book "Fun in Jordan" at the Friends of Archaeology Center (Tel. 696682) at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Abstract (plastic) art by Hana Barto entitled "Between Past and Present" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 20.

* "Science for Health" exhibition at the British Council, until Aug. 17.

* Abstract (plastic) art by Hussein Da'seh and Nader Samarah on Jerusalem at the Orfati Art Gallery, Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932), until Aug. 15.

* Graphic works by Eman Odeh at the Phoenix Art Gallery (Tel 695291), until Aug. 15.

* Photo exhibition by Hani Hourani entitled "People and Places" at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598), until Aug. 15.

Kabariiti to announce decision on bread price

(Continued from page 1)

early as Wednesday.

But it appeared Sunday that the prime minister could announce his executive decision on Tuesday, shortly after his return from Saudi Arabia, where he is accompanying His Majesty King Hussein on an official visit.

Opposition parties, led by the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party, have turned the dispute over subsidies into

a political tug-of-war with the government.

Subsidies for bread, sugar, rice, powdered milk and fodder are expected to cost the treasury around JD 200 million in 1996, and thus increasing the deficit in the fiscal budget.

An increased deficit will seriously undermine the progress that Jordan achieved in correcting budget imbalances; the deficit in 1989 was 24 per cent, but has been brought down to

four per cent (projected) in 1996.

Addressing the budget deficit is one of the pillars of the economic restructuring programme Jordan is implementing under the supervision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the programme's success is key to the Kingdom's hopes of achieving self-reliance and regaining the international credibility it enjoyed before 1988.

Ethiopia announces end to offensive

(Continued from page 1)

from Belet-Hawa and adjacent to the Ethiopian and Somali borders, said three bombs hit the area on Friday.

Nairobi's Sunday national newspaper said a Kenyan soldier was killed and another wounded when Ethiopian helicopters pounded targets near Mandera on Friday night. A Kenyan civilian was hurt when a bomb landed near a fuel station in the town, it added.

Somalia has had no government and has been torn apart by war since the fall of late President Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991.

Fighting between Muslim

forces in western central Somalia and a Somali faction backed by Ethiopia continued on Saturday, Kenyan officials said.

Morris Makhanu, the top government official in Kenya's eastern province, which borders Somalia and Ethiopia, said the fighting had moved further inside Somalia.

"It is not as intense as it was yesterday," Mr. Makhanu said, "but they are still fighting." Mr. Makhanu spoke to reporters in Mandera, where the borders of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia converge.

Al Ithid Al Islam operates in the Ogaden region that straddles Ethiopia and Somalia. They are also fight-

ing members of the Somali National Front, which supported Siad Barre.

Mr. Makhanu said Kenyan troops sealed the border to prevent an influx of refugees from Somalia.

A statement signed by seven men who identified themselves as elders from Gedo, the Somali name for the region under dispute, said "the Ethiopians killed many people" and appealed to international aid agencies to send food and medicine to the displaced people. Al Ithid Al Islam has fought since 1992 for the independence of the Ogaden area of Ethiopia which is inhabited by ethnic Somalis.

Cyprus rally turns violent

(Continued from page 1)

area, state television reported.

"My impression is that these were the worst inter-communal clashes since 1974," said U.N. spokesman Waldemar Rokoszewski.

He said U.N. peacekeepers tried but failed in their efforts to keep rival demonstrators apart.

"The U.N. is stretched, with its tiny budget. We tried to make human barriers," the spokesman said.

The protest started as a bid by thousands of Greek Cypriot bikers to burst across the green line to protest the island's 22-year division.

But the organisers called the action off at the last minute after appeals from Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides to avoid clashes.

But angry bikers vowed to defy the order.

In Nicosia, hundreds of flag-waving and chanting demonstrators without their motorbikes also broke through into the buffer zone to confront Turkish police and soldiers but turned back after a stand-off of more than one hour.

"I'm here to protest the

division of my island," said Argyris Andreou, 31, a Greek Cypriot biker as he stood only a few metres from the Turkish Cypriot troops. "People outside must know what's happening here."

Pantelis Apostolides, who sat on a 500cc moto Guzzi with a Greek flag draped on his back, added: "We are going to cross whatever happens, we will not give up."

The trek itself started on Aug. 2 in Berlin, which itself was once a divided capital.

Some 120 European and Greek Cypriot bikers picked up other supporters en route, particularly in Greece and arrived Saturday to a hero's welcome at the southern Cypriot port of Limassol.

On Sunday, organisers expected their numbers to swell to 7,000.

From Nicosia, they planned to break through security measures and drive to the coastal resort of Kyrenia in the northern part of the island.

Newspapers in the north reported that Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash ordered his

troops to fire on any bikers who cross.

The protesters initially planned to cross the U.N.-policed line into the north but the organisers told them the rally had been cancelled following talks with Mr. Clerides.

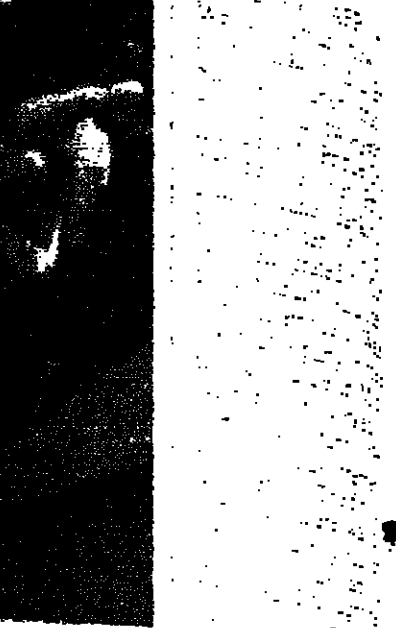
Mr. Clerides said he intervened to call off the rally in response to a message by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

"The Turkish Cypriot side took measures to give the impression that the conflict was between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots...The Turkish Cypriots organised a group...to clash with bikers to justify the presence of Turkish occupation troops in Cyprus," Mr. Clerides said.

Mr. Denkash visited the Turkish Cypriot side where tension was reported high. He tried to calm the crowd and urged them to disperse.

"Our soldiers are solid and upright at our borders, the necessary precautions have been taken. There is nothing to worry about. I want you to disperse peacefully," Mr. Denkash said.

Woman describes one-time romance with Charles

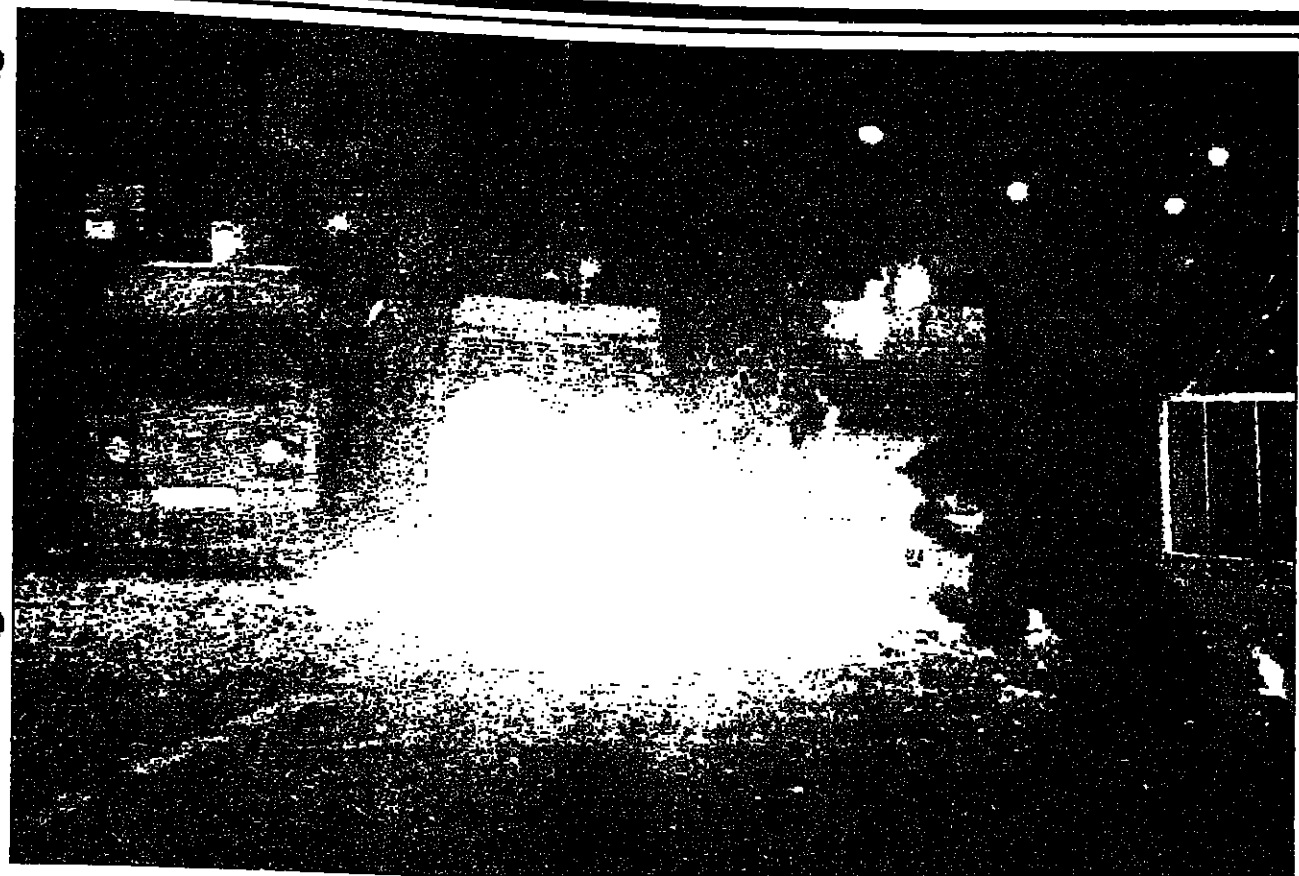


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Floating that in sandal sea



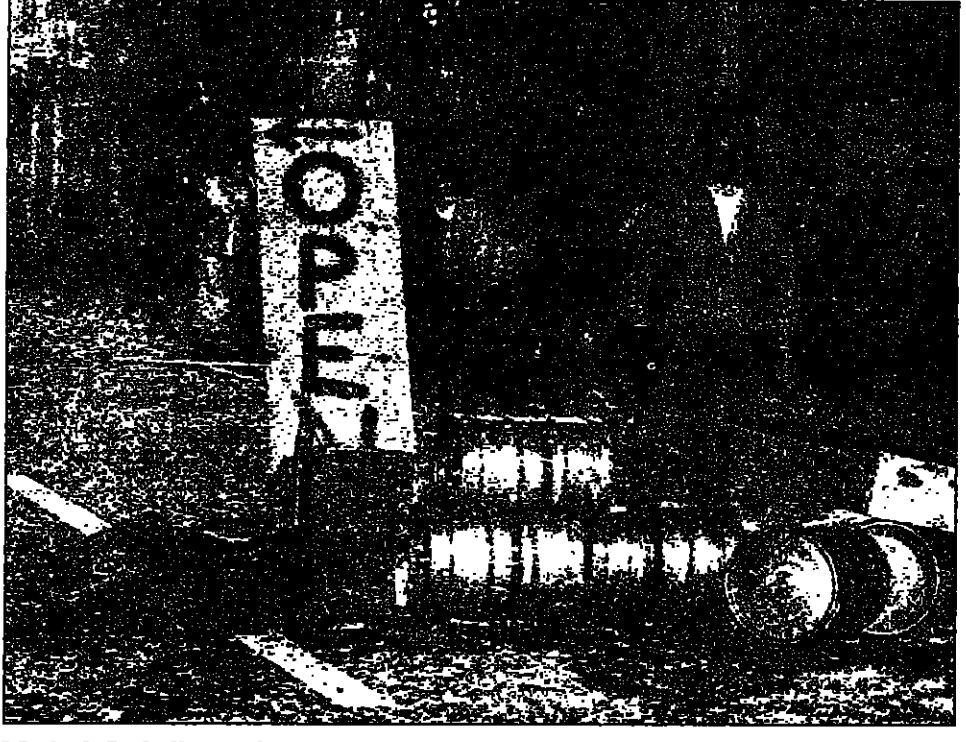
A petrol bomb thrown by a Catholic youth explodes on a line of police Landrovers in the Strand in Londonderry Saturday night. About two hundred youths from the Bogside clashed with police after the Apprentice Boys march had earlier walked through the city (Reuter photo)

Rioting mars relief over N. Irish marches

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (R) — A night of violence by angry Catholic youths marred an otherwise peaceful weekend of sectarian marches across Northern Ireland, renewing a sense of unease ahead of even more demonstrations Sunday.

About 100 young men hurled rocks, petrol bombs and abuse at police guarding Londonderry's city centre early Sunday.

Police fired plastic bullets to disperse the youths, many of whom had been drinking, and arrested 15.



Masked Catholic youths attempt to block the road in the Strand in Londonderry Saturday (Reuter photo)

Smaller disturbances had been quelled in the villages of Dunloy and Bellaghy, where Catholic residents closed off streets to block Protestant marches.

None of the incidents was described as serious, but they tarnished a sense of relief over negotiations that allowed a huge Protestant Apprentice Boys parade to pass quietly through the streets of Londonderry Saturday.

The same march in 1969 ignited a quarter-century of turmoil, in which 3,200 people have died, over Northern Ireland's status as a British province with a pro-British Protestant majority.

A year-old peace is under attack from the age-old rivalries, with fresh street violence laying bare the gulf between Protestants and Catholics.

The Catholic Bishop of Londonderry, Seamus Hegarty, said he thought "drinking had been involved" and the incident should not overshadow the earlier victories of reason over hatred.

"What happened last night was not representative," he said.

Yesterday, processions all over the city went off very well thanks to the very considerable work of people on both sides.

Many people had feared unrest would erupt during the march by the Apprentice Boys, a fervently pro-British Protestant organisation, after police attempts to block a similar parade last month provoked the province's worst riots for years.

But, after days of behind-the-scenes negotiations, the Apprentice Boys backed down from a confrontation over whether they could parade along the city's walls, a long stretch of which had been blocked by police after Catholic objections.

Catholics living near the walls, who had protested against the march as a triumphalist show of Protestant dominance, called off a counter-demonstration.

Nationalists, however, had their own rally scheduled in Belfast for later Sunday and community leaders were negotiating frantically to make sure it went smoothly.

Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, planned its annual demonstration to mark the unsuccessful and hugely unpopular British policy of internment without trial, abandoned in 1975.

The police had allowed police and security forces to arrest "terrorist" suspects and hold them without trial.

In a series of pre-dawn raids on Aug. 9, 1971, the army swooped down on 340 suspects, all of them Catholic. More than 20 people died in the riots that followed.

The anniversary has since become an annual rallying point for nationalists and a potential flashpoint when supporters of British rule respond with their own demonstrations.

Jim Rodgers, a city councillor for the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party, said he had been trying to persuade Protestants in the city to cancel planned counter-demonstrations, and Sinn Fein said it was confident its own demonstrators would behave in a peaceful manner.

Confrontations were also possible in Bellaghy, near Londonderry, where members of the Protestant Back Perceptory, a religious organisation, planned a march Sunday. Catholic villagers said they would again try to block it.

At least one big rebel boat was sunk, killing six of the guerrillas known as Sea Tigers, and eight other rebel craft were damaged during the midnight confrontation Saturday, the officials said.

They said two government sailors were wounded during the exchange of fire off the island's Mullaitivu coast, where the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) overran an army garrison last month, killing some 1,300 troops and seizing \$50 million worth of armaments.

News of the sea battle came as the Tigers said they had blocked an army advance on a rebel-held town in the island's north, as fighting in the area entered its second week Sunday.

Italian government warns Bossi to calm down

ROME (R) — The Italian government Sunday warned Umberto Bossi, hot-tempered leader of the Northern League party, that his increasingly strident demands for secession risked spiralling out of control.

Mr. Bossi shattered Italy's political summer lull over the weekend with a call for supporters to destroy television relay stations owned by national broadcaster RAI as a step towards forming an independent northern state.

"Along the River Po we will burn hundreds of thousands of TV licence fee coupons and tear down RAI's relay stations," the husky voiced Bossi told a League rally Saturday.

The Northern League has called supporters to gather along the banks of the Po on Sept. 15, to declare independence for a northern nation Mr. Bossi has dubbed "Padania" after the fertile plain around the famous Italian river.

Government ministers rounded on this latest move by Mr. Bossi, who has upped the tempo of his demands for the secession of the wealthy north of Italy from the poorer south since his party's strong performance in April general election.

"This (behaviour) could provoke uncontrollable

events which the state would have to respond to with firmness," Interior Minister Giorgio Napolitano warned in a letter published in La Stampa newspaper.

Politicians from the opposition centre-right Freedom Alliance and the Vatican also attacked Mr. Bossi.

"These latest declarations are genuine terrorist threats," the Vatican's official newspaper L'Osservatore Romano said.

Unease about secession has also surfaced within the League, leading to a public split between Mr. Bossi and Irene Pivetti, one of the party's most high-profile figures who was president of the lower house of parliament in the last legislature.

Ms. Pivetti, a staunch Roman Catholic, said recently Mr. Bossi had hijacked the party, forcing it away from its federalist ideals. Her comments brought down the ire of her one-time protector.

"Pivetti was never part of the League, we used her to make deals with the Vatican. I'm now going to send Pivetti back to the Vatican," Mr. Bossi was quoted in all Sunday's newspapers as telling Saturday's rally.

The League took root in the 1980s as a protest movement against the excesses of

Rome central government and was instrumental in helping bring about the collapse of the old, corrupt political guard at the start of the 1990s.

Its support has grown steadily and at the April election it polled 10 per cent of the vote nationwide and over 30 per cent in parts of the rich north of Italy.

Since the vote, Mr. Bossi has dropped his calls for a federalist state, saying the only way forward was complete secession.

"We work like Germans but we are paid like Indonesians. We won't accept Italian nationalism. We're in the Padania," he told Saturday's rally, flanked by a now habitual group of militants all sporting green shirts.

Italy's centre-left government headed by Romano Prodi has previously sought to play down Mr. Bossi's threats but commentators warned at the week-end that the League could not be ignored.

"Bossi should be taken seriously...The time for joking is past. From today on there has to be a sense of responsibility," top selling daily Corriere Della Sera said in a front page editorial Saturday.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has pulled its chief of station in Rome and at least two other intelligence officers out of Italy after authorities there arrested a U.S. intelligence officer caught up in an operation, according to a report.

According to the weekly U.S. News And World Report magazine, Italian police were conducting an operation to crack down on suspected terrorists when they bagged the U.S. intelligence officer who was running a recruitment operation without first informing the Italians.

The magazine said in its Aug. 19 edition that the CIA had actually directed the Italians to the suspected terrorists. The Rome station inadvertently directed its Italian liaison to a spot that was rife with suspected terrorists, the magazine reported.

The U.S. spy agency was either unaware or had forgotten that it was running an operation in the same area, the report said. "The agency got rolled up," one source told the magazine.

Russian troops battle in Grozny, break blockade

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Russian troops broke through a blockade in the centre of the Chechen capital Grozny Sunday but separatist rebels battled on and hundreds of refugees fled to safety.

After almost a week of fighting, federal forces struggled to gain the upper hand in house-to-house combat in Grozny and the rebel command said a convoy of Russian armoured vehicles had been wiped out to the east of the city.

Interfax News Agency quoted the rebels as saying about 150 Russian soldiers had been killed in the ambush, but there was no confirmation of this. Both sides in the 20-month conflict have tended to exaggerate the losses of their opponents.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared a day of mourning Saturday and ordered Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to investigate the "gross miscalculations" which have led to the heavy Russian casualties.

Mr. Yeltsin discussed the situation Sunday with Mr. Chernomyrdin and new Russian security supremo Alexander Lebed, ITAR-TASS news agency said. Gen. Lebed, a tough-talking general, was appointed at the weekend as Mr. Yeltsin's personal representative in Chechnya.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was due to chair a meeting of Russia's State Commission on Chechnya later Sunday.

The worst fighting in more than a year has triggered a new flood of refugees from Grozny. Most residents who have stayed behind are cowering in basements as artillery shells crash into the city where rebels control large areas.

Rebel sources have put the number of Russian servicemen killed up to Saturday at more than 1,000, though Interfax quoted Russian commanders as saying they had lost 170-200 by Sunday.

It quoted the separatists as saying Sunday they had destroyed more than 200 federal armoured vehicles so far.

TASS, whose correspondent was among a group of civilians trapped in the heart of the Grozny battle zone, said federal forces had arrived at the regional government complex and managed to evacuate some wounded soldiers and remove bodies.

However, a report by Interfax News Agency from the region quoted a Russian military spokesman as saying the situation was extremely difficult.

"Groups of rebels in varying numbers are shooting

from all sides and Russian units have virtually no rear-guard," the spokesman said.

TASS correspondent Sergei Trofimov said: "The blockade of central Grozny was broken through last night by units of interior troops and a motorised infantry regiment."

Interfax quoted the separatist command in southern Chechnya as saying federal forces had been forced to change their tactics after suffering heavy losses.

The Russians were no longer advancing in armoured convoys backed up by infantry — easy targets for the Chechen fighters armed with automatic rifles and grenade launchers — but were attacking in small groups supported by artillery fire.

Witnesses told Reuters by telephone that rebels were roaming the streets with artillery shells crashing around them. The Russian troops were less visible, they said.

TASS, quoting Russia's acting commander in Chechnya Konstantin Pulikovskiy, said fighting Sunday was less intense than in previous days.

"Most of the rebels did not leave the city overnight and they are now trying to seize means of transport," he said.

Meanwhile, the European

Union (EU) has expressed serious concern at the situation in the Russian region of Chechnya and appealed to both the Russian army and separatist rebels to cease fire immediately.

In a statement issued in Dublin late Saturday, the Irish government, current holders of the EU presidency, said: "The European Union is seriously concerned at the recent escalation of the fighting in Chechnya."

"It deplores in particular the ensuing civilian casualties and the suffering that a continuation of the violence is causing to the Chechen people," it added.

The EU appeals to both sides in the conflict to institute an immediate ceasefire. It further calls for a return by the parties to the negotiating table," the statement said.

It went on to call for measures to ensure the safety of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) assistance group in Chechnya. The group could "play an important part in bringing about a renewed ceasefire," it said.

The EU also urges that the humanitarian organisations working in Chechnya be granted the access necessary for them to pursue their tasks unhindered," the statement said.

Sri Lankan Navy sinks Tiger flotilla

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Navy gunboats attacked a flotilla of Tamil Tiger guerrilla boats off north-eastern Sri Lanka, while government ground troops elsewhere remained pinned down Sunday under a fierce rebel counter-offensive, officials said.

At least one big rebel boat was sunk, killing six of the guerrillas known as Sea Tigers, and eight other rebel craft were damaged during the midnight confrontation Saturday, the officials said.

They said two government sailors were wounded during the exchange of fire off the island's Mullaitivu coast, where the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) overran an army garrison last month, killing some 1,300 troops and seizing \$50 million worth of armaments.

News of the sea battle came as the Tigers said they had blocked an army advance on a rebel-held town in the island's north, as fighting in the area entered its second week Sunday.

Last of Burundi's neighbours close ranks

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's military government was cut off from its neighbours Sunday after Zaïre became the last state in the region to say it had imposed sanctions following last month's coup.

One after another, neighbours in east and central Africa have shut the gates, saying they will only reopen when civilian rule returns to the landlocked country where the Tutsi-led military ousted the Hutu president on July 25.

The new rulers say they seized power to prevent genocide in Burundi, where more than 150,000 people have died in three years of fighting between minority Tutsis and ethnic Hutus, who make up around 85 per cent of the population.

They have promised to set up a transitional National Assembly, which could include members of the suspended parliament, as part of a return to civilian rule.

But the claims of legitimate action by Tutsi strongman Pierre Buyoya have had a hostile reception in the region.

East and central African states agreed at a July 31 summit to impose sanctions on the densely populated country of about 5.6

million people.

Road, rail, air and water links to neighbours have been cut and thousands of tonnes of goods are piling up. Burundi imports all its fuel and relies on coffee exports for 90 per cent of its hard currency.

Some fear the worst effects of the boycotts will be felt by the poorest people and several charities and aid agencies are waiting for exemptions, so they can continue food aid and medical programmes.

Western countries, led by the United States, had warned the Burundian military not to seize power, but have taken little action since the coup.

Belgium, the former colonial power, has not recognised Major Buyoya, but said he is possibly the least of a range of evils.

Maj. Buyoya's foreign minister, Luc Rukingana, on an unofficial visit to Brussels as part of an international charm offensive, said relations between the two governments were "very good."

Belgian airline Sabena is the only carrier still flying the Bujumbura route, though a flight next Tuesday might be the last for several weeks.

The military government has said it is prepared to

talk to Hutu rebels if they lay down their weapons and denounce violence, but in the meantime the war will continue.

Maj. Buyoya's defence minister, Firmin Sinzoyiheba, said his army would have to win support from Hutu civilians to fight the insurgency.

"Our main task now is to launch a hearts and minds campaign to bring the army and Hutu civilians closer together," he told Reuters, but acknowledged the armed forces has some discipline problems.

"My job now is to discipline the army. Women and children are dying. This is not normal. A small child is not a fighter," he said.

Regional analysts fear Burundi could go the way of its northern neighbour Rwanda, which has the same explosive ethnic mix and where up to a million people, including thousands of women and children, died in war and genocidal massacres in 1994.

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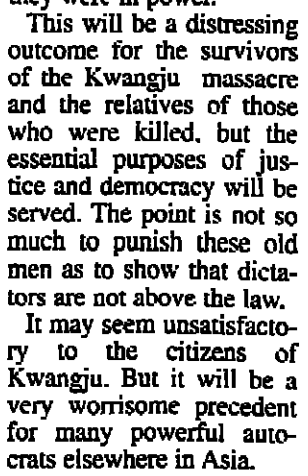
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A writer for **Al Dustour** criticised Jordanian universities for their failure to open faculties to train students in tourism and hotel management, noting that the Kingdom is witnessing a rising tourism industry and increased numbers of tourists all the year round. Ahmad Shaker said that universities ought to train students in trades that are in demand by the local community and the country's needs of various industries, including tourism. Currently JD 500 million are being invested in hotels to accommodate the growing number of tourists which last year hit the one million mark, but Jordanian universities lack training courses for tourist guides who need to speak different languages, and they lack the will to embark on courses that would qualify Jordanians to handle the requirements of the flourishing tourism industry, noted the writer. He said the time has come for Jordanian universities to re-examine their higher education courses and their usefulness to the country instead of turning out an army of educated persons who seldom find employment.

Jordan, by enforcing a minimum wage rate, would be correcting another source of irregularity. The replacement of local labour by foreign labour. Most significantly, this policy would be another piece in the puzzle: however, the total solution requires the use of micro and macro economic policy to bring about a lean, competitive and emerging twenty first-century economy. Other pieces which are being put in place are: The new economic laws, privatisation and the harmonisation of Jordanian standards with those of the rest of the world.



The writer is an Iranian journalist and author. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Feature

Saudi, Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

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Netanyahu: J

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Kahalani: F

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The ... committee for ... group of the ... (Organ- ... PLO), decided to ... the U.N. the new ... policy on settlements ... the West Bank and Gaza ... Kaddoum, the PLO's ... external relations ...

The participants ... have ... concrete measure ... dealing ... the Israel ... policy of completely igno- ... and neglecting the ... peace ... and the agreement ... that were concluded," he tel- ... reporters after the meeting.

Mr Kaddoum refused to ... say what the "concrete mea- ... were ... adding on- ... that "they will be applied ... the ground."

The Israeli government la- ... week decided to lift a partial ... on new settlements ... construction in the West ... Bank and Gaza ... imposed by the previous ... Labour government when ... came to power in 1992.

Mr Netanyahu, who was ... elected May 29, said that ... Palestinians' ... must cease ... diplomatic activity in ... Jerusalem before ... Israel ... Palestinian ... negotiations ... would resume.

The Fatch meeting be- ... late Saturday after ta- ... between Mr. Arafat ... Egyptian President Ho- ... Mubarak.

The accession to power ... Prime Minister Netanyahu ... its repercussions on ... Palestinian peace track ... concerning ... settlements, ... redeployment from Hebr- ... and the declared intent ... not to implement acco- ... already signed," were ... main issues discussed Sa- ... day, central committee ... member Mohammad Gh- ... said.

"Settlements are ... biggest danger that thro- ... to destroy the peace pro- ... and they must ...

Labour

Saudi, Jordanian leaders hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

Kingdom and promised to pursue peace with Israel's Arab neighbours in a bid to soothe Arab alarms over his hardline stance and refusal to return Arab territory to Arabs in exchange for peace.

Reports that the Jordanian and Saudi leaders would discuss a proposal for an Arab mini-summit of heads of state directly involved in the peace process could not be independently confirmed.

"The visit is of utmost importance," Information Minister Marwan Muasher said before the King left Amman. "It aims at consolidating brotherly ties between our two countries and to restore them to their natural course."

The visit coincided with the 44th anniversary of King Hussein's accession to the Hashemite throne when he was 17.

The King's talks with the Saudi leaders are also expected to cover means to

enhance economic cooperation through trade and joint projects and increasing the number of Jordanians recruited to work in Saudi Arabia.

King Hussein is also expected to assure the Saudi leadership of continued Jordanian help in countering any threat to the security and stability of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, officials said. Saudi sources quoted by international news agencies said Jordan recently provided Saudi authorities with information related to groups suspected of the November and June bombings against U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia and to pro-Iranian guerrillas.

Jordan has a history of close security cooperation with Gulf countries.

The situation in Iraq was also expected to figure high in the King's talks in Jeddah.

A Jordanian official quoted by Agence France Presse said the talks would "crown the process of normalisation

begun in the summer of 1995," adding there were high hopes "of major, tangible results on the political and economic levels."

An Arab diplomat in Riyadh told AFP that the discussions were aimed at "clearing the last hurdle on the path to restoring" full and normal ties.

Jordanian officials in Amman said that after Saudi Arabia King Hussein might go to Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates in the next few weeks. "Jordan wants to lay the foundations for a proper economic and security partnership with Saudi Arabia and its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)," said an Arab diplomat quoted by Reuters.

Jordan, he added, was ready to share more security information and would like the GCC to hire more Jordanian workers and open markets to Jordanian goods to help ease its economic and unemployment problems.

The closure of Orient House means loss of hope — Hussein

'I clearly see two capitals, not a rough division of the city but two parts, with an access, which is both unhampered and mutual'

'If something happens to Arafat, there will be elections'

By Daphna Barak

EAST JERUSALEM — The Israeli soldiers looking at my crew as we entered Orient House to interview Faisal Hussein, a chief Palestinian official, seemed hesitant as to whether or not they should interrupt us. Our chatter in English decided the matter — no! We were not speaking Arabic, and were it not for my blond hair, I am willing to bet that they would have found a way to stop us. And this is daily reality at this beautiful house which has become a symbol of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is here they try to implement, on a daily basis, borderline words like "co-existence."

Question: Faisal Hussein, this controversial house belongs to your family, please recount a bit of the building's history.

Answer: Of course, the house belongs to my family. Important as well as famous people have visited it, such as German Emperor Wilhelm II, Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie and his wife, Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, who came for his father's funeral... Throughout the years it has served as a hotel, after 1948 it deteriorated, obviously. Since 1992-1993 it has resumed being a Palestinian guest-house.

Q: "It resumed being a Palestinian guest-house" as a result of a spontaneous decision, or was it a more gradual process?

A: It came gradually; under this roof we house the Arab Study Society, the Documentation Centre, the Information Centre, the Centre for Land and Property Studies, the Centre for the Defence of Palestinian Civil Rights... My office is responsible for relations with the Israeli government and the media that we may accelerate the peace process.

Q: The new Likud government has declared its intention to close Orient House. What will that do to the Palestinians?

A: That would be a blow and not only for the Palestinian people! Listen, in 1993, when the Israelis decided to have live (satellite) transmissions of the peace ceremonies, they based them in two locations: one was the White House, and the other was the Orient House. This points to the importance of this place, its symbolism. It says everything! For the Palestinian it symbolises Jerusalem. Closure of the House would symbolise for us, that Jerusalem is not even being considered at the peace talks (symbolising) a loss of hope.

Q: Let's talk about Jerusalem, I understand that unofficial talks were held between Israelis and Arabs about its future.

A: It is difficult for us to assert that there have been negotiations about Jerusalem. These were — these are — academic conversations. Whatever the offer will be — I don't care, just so long as it means the end of this taboo on Jerusalem. This is a taboo that applies to both sides, but especially to the Israelis.

Q: How do you, Faisal Hussein,

envision the future of Jerusalem?

A: I clearly see two capitals, not a rough division of the city but two parts, with an access, which is both unhampered and mutual.

Q: And where exactly would you establish the border between the two parts?

A: Well, we are committed, or restricted, to the U.N. decision (Resolution 242), which states that the conflicting parties must return to 1967 borders, and also that the entire world does not want it (Jerusalem) divided in half.

Q: With the new Likud government, how realistic is peace?

A: Look, the Oslo agreement does not commit only the Labour Party. It is something that came out of a worldwide need for a solution to this area. We, the Palestinians, feel that we have paid a high price, and I understand that the Israelis feel the same way.

Q: Are conversations being held with the Likud?

A: Look, firstly — they will understand, they must understand, with time everyone will understand, the need for peace. In the beginning, they (the Likud) spoke of their intention to close the Orient House, afterwards they spoke of the intention to close sections of the House. You are sitting with me here... It's easy to talk when you are the opposition. When you create a government — you join part of the world community. You have a commitment to the world.

Q: Have there been conversations with any of the Likud's senior people?

A: The only one with whom we met was Moshe Amirav (a former Likud activist) and you recall the results (expulsion from the party). Roni Miloh (Mayor of Tel Aviv) also met with us and his fate nearly suffered the same fate as Amirav's. As for the meeting between David Levy, Israel's new foreign minister, and Yasser Arafat — if you exchange the faces, you will get a picture similar to the peace ceremony with Rabin-Peres-Arafat. Exactly the same picture that was used by the Likud election campaign against the Israeli Labour Party.

Q: Let's talk about Yasser Arafat's role.

A: (Long silence) Yes...

Q: Yes?

A: You know, when we began to talk about peace, and James Baker, the former American foreign minister, visited regularly, he said: 'I am the only game in town!' Now two years have passed and no one, including Yasser Arafat himself, is satisfied with what has been done.

Q: What has been his (Arafat) biggest mistake?

A: You can only speak about a man's mistakes once you have had his job. First, what seems like a mistake now may later be proven as brilliant. Secondly, maybe he will make even bigger mistakes...

Q: You are mentioned as one of Arafat's potential biers.

A: That rumour was probably spread by someone who covets his role. I believe that Arafat is leading his people in a very difficult situa-

tion, he must cope with huge problems. I don't think that there are many who want to be in his shoes. But, life continues, leaders change, we have a system. If something happens to Arafat, his heir will be active within 60 days. Afterwards, there will be elections.

Q: And in those elections — will you run?

A: No, no. I will not run given the absence of the question of Jerusalem on the platform. This is not a borderline, insignificant factor which can be hastily amended to the platform. If U.N. decision 242 is recognised as part of the platform, I will run. But not a minute before.

Q: Maybe the time has come for Arafat to go home? There are those who say "he has led his people in the desert, like Moses, and now, there's need for new blood!"

A: Ah, but look how the Jews have suffered after those years in the desert... seriously: We are talking here about a maximum of two terms, or 10 years total, in office for the leader of the new state. Now the question remains: Will it be so for Arafat? Ten more years? Or will it be retroactive?... I suppose that he can run for one more term.

Q: Ten years from now what will the Palestinian entity look like?

A: More fascinating. I think, is to conceive of 20 years from now: the Middle Eastern community will be like the European community. In April 1989 I said that in the next century there will be no room for small countries. And I meant England, Germany, France...

Q: Those are small countries?

A: Yes, so imagine what will happen to Israel, Jordan, Lebanon...

Q: You visited the Gulf countries at the end of July.

A: Yes, I visited Qatar and Oman, in order to hear about the visit of Dore Gold, Benjamin Netanyahu's advisor. I reported to them and also received their reports. Afterwards, I visited Saudi Arabia, seeking support and assistance for the Palestinians.

Q: Relations with the Saudis are improving?

A: Contrary to reports, they never completely terminated, they only slowed down...

Q: Are you trying to renew relations with Kuwait?

A: Yes, now is the time to begin anew; we are initiating first contacts.

Q: When was the exact moment you felt that there might be a chance for peace in the area?

A: At the beginning of 1987, that was the moment it became clear that Israel must do something. In December of 1986 I was interviewed by 'The Jerusalem Post'. I talked of peace. The interviewer inquired: 'But why should Israel give you an opportunity? What pressures Israel?' I answered: 'We will see demonstrations, riots. Every few months at first, then every month, every week...' Four months later, from the moment the intifada commenced, everything began to roll, the riots, the frustra-



Faisal Hussein

tion, and the reason for peace.

Q: Were you surprised by Hamas activities during Israel's election campaign? Hamas actually empowered the Likud!

A: No, we weren't surprised. Look, after Yahya "The Engineer" Ayyash was murdered we lost control. Yes, for five months there were no terrorist acts! But from the moment he was killed, we knew that everything was lost, that we lost control. It happens all over the world and those in the middle always pay the price. It was obvious that it would strengthen the Likud. Although we attempted to prevent this, before the assassination we were successful. Afterwards everything was lost. There was also some panic: "The Likud is back, the occupier is back!" Do you remember a caricature in 'The Jerusalem Post' where Netanyahu rides a horse, and the horse's name is "Fear"?

Q: When you were a little boy, what did you dream about?

A: I had no childhood — when I was eight, I was already an adult. If I did not have to fight for my people I would like to be a farmer, a man of the earth, who takes his family to the beach, to the movies, a simple life.

Q: Would you describe the present stage of negotiations?

A: When the intifada began, it was a different kind of war, we defined three stages, in an equal number of years: The first year was to change the opinion of the Palestinian people, to create an inclination toward compromise. The second year was to change the international opinion as to Palestinian rights and the third year was to change the Israeli opinion toward the Palestinians. Regrettably, the Gulf war interrupted us. We were then forced to add a fourth year, to change Arab opinion toward our problems. I believe that we have succeeded. Now that we have convinced everyone of our right, to determine our own destiny we can deal with the challenge of living day to day, we cope...

Netanyahu: Jerusalem accord impossible

(Continued from page 1)

Jerusalem will remain the "eternal capital" of the Jewish state.

In addition, Mr. Netanyahu on Friday demanded that the Palestinian National Authority halt all political activity in East Jerusalem as a condition for pursuing the peace process.

In the interview, Mr. Netanyahu said his view of a future "Palestinian entity" would involve granting "very extensive autonomy" which would allow Palestinians to manage their own affairs freely and with dignity.

"But everything concerning security will remain in Israel's hands to ensure that Israel will continue to exist," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu, who has yet to meet with Yasser Arafat, reiterated his oft-stated formula that considering countering the Palestinian president only "if this becomes necessary to ensure Israel's security."

He confirmed, however, that Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai would meet Mr. Arafat soon to discuss "issues of common interest, notably in the security area."

Foreign Minister David Levy is the only Israeli cab-

inet member to have met Mr. Arafat since the Netanyahu government was initiated on June 18.

Mr. Arafat attacked Mr. Netanyahu's statement, saying it was not up to the Israeli leader to decide the future of the Palestinians.

"We will achieve our goal for independence, a Palestinian state," said Mr. Arafat, returning from a trip to Cairo.

Wrapping up his Al Quds interview on a lighter note, Mr. Netanyahu said he hoped one day to learn Arabic "as it is spoken by the Palestinians."

Kahalani: Hebron move 'very near'

(Continued from page 1)

Denmark, Italy, Sweden and Turkey.

In Cairo, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction decided to ask the United Nations to deal with Israeli policy on expanding Jewish settlements, vowing to take unspecified "concrete measures."

The Central Committee for Fatah, the main group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), decided to submit to the U.N. the new Israeli policy on settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, said Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's external relations chief.

"The participants have agreed on concrete measures for dealing with the Israeli policy of completely ignoring and neglecting the peace process and the agreements that were concluded," he told reporters after the meeting.

Mr. Kaddoumi refused to say what the "concrete measures" were, adding only that "they will be applied on the ground."

The Israeli government last week decided to lift a partial freeze on new settlement construction in the West Bank and Gaza Strip imposed by the previous Labour government when it came to power in 1992.

Mr. Netanyahu, who was elected May 29, said that the Palestinians must cease all diplomatic activity in East Jerusalem before Israeli-Palestinian negotiations would resume.

The Fatah meeting began late Saturday after talks between Mr. Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"The accession to power of Prime Minister Netanyahu and its repercussions on the Palestinian peace track concerning settlements, the redeployment from Hebron and the declared intention not to implement accords already signed" were the main issues discussed Saturday, central committee member Mohammad Ghineim said.

"Settlements are the biggest danger that threaten to destroy the peace process and they must be confronted by Palestinians firstly and by

the Arab and international communities," said Nabil Shaath, minister of planning and economic cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority.

"We cannot stand with our hands tied in the face of the settlement issue. No one can imagine that settlements and peace can coexist... Settlements have to be stopped and this was one of the major concerns of this meeting," Mr. Shaath told reporters.

Mr. Kaddoumi said Palestinians would use all legal means at their disposal to oppose the settlement move.

"We (Fatah) decided to confront the Israeli measures that represent a blow to the peace process and show a lack of concern to international public opinion. These decisions are to be implemented on the ground and embody confronting settlements with all that is in our legal capability," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

"The measures taken by Israel on occupied Arab land show that Netanyahu has turned his back on the peace process. We will take all legal means decreed by international legislation. The United Nations is one of the basic means because the peace process is determined by its resolutions," he added.

Palestinians are also angry over Israel's demand on Friday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) halt its activity in Arab east Jerusalem.

"The world and Mr. Netanyahu must understand that developments which hurt two things in particular can end the whole peace process," said Faisal Al Hussein, PLO-appointed official in charge of Palestinians affairs in Jerusalem.

"These are if the policy on settlements is changed and the Israelis once again build new settlements or expand old ones, and if they start working in Jerusalem, trying to change reality there for the benefit of Israelis. All of these things can end immediately hopes for peace," he added.

Mr. Arafat said in an interview broadcast late Sunday by Israel Television that if his peace goals were frustrated by the Jewish state he

would turn to international arbitration.

"Arbitration. We have the United Nations, we have the Hague, we have the co-sponsors, we have the Security Council, we have the Europeans. We'll go to arbitration," Mr. Arafat said when asked what he would do if in final talks the goal of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital was not realised.

The United States and Russia are the co-sponsors of the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon which were launched in Madrid in 1991. Mr. Arafat also said Mr. Netanyahu would soon have to end his resistance and meet him.

"He can't ignore me. He is trying to avoid to meet me now," Mr. Arafat said in the interview conducted in English.

"I am the most important figure in the Middle East's dilemma, in the Middle East equation," Mr. Arafat said, reminding the interviewer Jordan only made peace with the Jewish state in 1994 after the Palestinians cut an interim deal in 1993.

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Algeria sets up body to steer debate on economy

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zoual's top aide Saturday established a committee to prepare a broad national debate on economic strategy, an official statement said.

The statement said the committee included government officials, business representatives and workers' representatives.

The statement, carried by the official Algerian news agency APS, invited opposition political parties, experts and university economists to join in the debate on economic development and social policy.

The Algerian government, battling a four-year-old Muslim guerrilla uprising in which an estimated 50,000 people have died, is striving to shift a state-dominated economy towards a free market.

Other economy news shows that Algeria expects a 10 per cent increase in its oil and gas production in 1996 in comparison to 3.5 per cent in 1995.

"The hydrocarbons sector which reached 3.5 per cent growth in 1995 will register a 10 per cent increase in 1996," Finance Minister Ahmad Benbitour told APS in an interview.

Algeria's oil and gas exports amounted to \$9.730 billion in 1995 against \$8.485 billion in

1994. Mr. Benbitour did not give figures for the country's oil and gas exports in 1996 which are heavily linked to the spot market crude prices.

But he said Algeria is counting on oil and gas earnings to meet foreign debt payments and to pay for imports to feed its 28 million people and imports for its industry, running at half of its capacity.

"We are not counting every now and then in the industry and housing and public works sectors to earn the foreign currency necessary for paying back the foreign debt," he said.

Mr. Benbitour ruled out that Algeria will seek a new foreign rescheduling debt from the Paris Club government creditors.

"Algeria will not conduct a third debt rescheduling," he insisted, apparently rebuffing predictions by local analysts suggesting the North African country may be forced to seek another debt relief in the future.

Algeria signed two debt rescheduling deals with Paris Club in 1994 and 1995 for a total of more than \$12 billion.

It also concluded a \$3.2 billion agreement in its debts to commercial banks respectively in London and Geneva in last

June and July.

The Algerian debt, estimated at \$32 billion at the end of 1995, will be less than \$40 billion in 2004, Mr. Benbitour said.

"The debt stock will still be below \$40 billion (in 2004) and the debt servicing rate will remain at 50 per cent and the debt/exports rate will shrink to 210 per cent from 316 per cent in 1994," he said.

Algeria has increased its non-oil and gas exports by 56 per cent in the first seven months of 1996 to \$418 million from \$283 million in the same period last year.

Algerian Prime Minister Ahmad Ouyahia, who gave the figures during a news conference, said the non-oil and gas exports would reach \$2.0 billion in the next four years.

The goal set to reach \$2.0 billion from non-oil and gas exports is within hand's reach," APS quoted Mr. Ouyahia as saying at the news conference.

Algeria's overall exports climbed to \$10.240 billion in 1995 from \$8.501 billion in 1994, according to official figures. The oil and gas, which dominate the country's exports structure, amounted to \$9.730 billion in 1995 against 48.485 billion in 1994.

French government to cut 6,500 jobs, slash spending by 60b francs

PARIS (AFP) — France will eliminate 6,500 public sector jobs as part of a plan to slash spending by 60 billion francs (\$12 billion) next year and qualify as a founding member of the single European currency, Budget Minister Alain Lamassoure said.

Mr. Lamassoure declared: "This is an unprecedented effort to reduce expenditure and amounts to savings of 60 billion francs."

"France will be able to achieve two objectives: Reduce taxes in 1997 and qualify for economic and monetary union (EMU) from Jan. 1, 1999," Mr. Lamassoure said.

Last week, each minister received a confidential letter containing the figure by which departmental expenditure had to be reduced from the figure this year.

"Amid this effort for good management, the concerns of the French people have not been forgotten and resources for the ministries of education, health and justice will be increased," the minister said.

But under the draft budget for 1997 the number of people employed in the public sector would be reduced by a net amount of 6,500 to 7,000.

Mr. Lamassoure said that President Jacques Chirac

had praised the government for having brought public expenditure under control in a way which was without precedent under the Fifth Republic "and probably in our entire history."

Prime Minister Alain Juppe said: "We shall not spend more in 1997 than in this year."

The outcome of national economic and monetary policies in 1997 is to be used at the beginning of 1998 to determine which countries of the European Union qualify to be founders of the single currency.

Turks seek \$870m food sale to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Turkey is trying to secure food sale contracts for all the \$870 million Iraq has allocated for buying foodstuffs under its oil-for-food plan agreed with the United Nations, a Turkish businessman said Sunday.

A delegation of 27 Turkish businessmen is holding talks in Baghdad over trade deals under the plan allowing Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy food and medicines.

Ahmet Kusculu, member of the executive board of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, said Turkey was ready to meet Iraq's entire food needs under the plan for which Baghdad has

allocated \$870 million.

"We are trying to export to Iraq (food worth all) these \$870 million," he told Reuters.

Iraq has been under strict trade sanctions since it invaded Kuwait six years ago this month.

Under the plan, Iraq would be left with \$1.135 billion after paying reparations for invasion victims and other U.N. costs. The money will be spent under U.N. supervision. A U.N. committee approved procedures for implementing the plan last week.

The bulk of the limited Iraqi oil exports is to be shipped through a pipeline to a Turkish terminal on the Mediterranean.

"The aim of our visit... is to supply Iraq with urgent needs like medicine and food products after the operation of the pipeline," Mr. Kusculu said of the Turkish team, which followed a stream of European, Asian and Arab delegations flocking to Baghdad since Iraq accepted the oil-for-food plan in May.

Turkey has also asked the United Nations for permission to import Iraqi crude oil in return for selling food and medicine to Baghdad apart from the May 20 agreement.

"Turkey is keen to have the U.N. permission to allow it to start trade exchange with Iraq to export food, medicine and

other humanitarian needs in return for importing Iraqi crude," Iraq's official Al Thawra newspaper Sunday quoted Mr. Kusculu as saying.

"Turkish businessmen are coordinating with the Turkish government to raise trade exchange with Iraq to \$1 billion until gradually it reaches pre-trade sanctions level which was \$2 billion a year," he said.

On Saturday, Turkey's Anatolian news agency said Turkish Justice Minister Sevtik Kazan and Education Minister Mehmet Saglam were leaving for Baghdad Sunday for talks on reopening the oil pipeline.

Iran oil sector seen surviving U.S. sanctions

DUBAI (R) — Iran's ambitious oil plans will be hampered but not derailed by U.S. sanctions that penalise new foreign investment in Tehran's crucial energy sector, Gulf economists and oil industry sources said Sunday.

The Iran-Libya sanctions act, signed by U.S. President Bill Clinton on Aug. 5, will slow Iran's attempts to develop its abundant energy reserves by deterring foreign firms undertaking costly offshore and other export-related projects, they said.

"The new bill has poured a glue bottle over the whole process... This does not mean that the (Iran) oil ministry will not sign more contracts," one Gulf-based economist said.

Iran, the world's main source of oil after Saudi Arabia and Norway, aims to expand existing fields and develop new deposits to lift production capacity to five million barrels per day (bpd) in the year 2000 from 4.1 million bpd.

"This will involve projects to reinject gas into the country's existing prolific but ageing onshore fields to boost recovery rates and to develop discovered offshore reserves."

Meeting this target would again leapfrog Iran over Norway in the oil exporters' league table and, depending on how quickly Iraq can bring on new fields with foreign help, add to its power at the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Tehran earns \$16 billion a year from oil exports. Under the new U.S. law, foreign firms investing \$40 million or more annually in either of the two states' oil and gas sectors are open to financial and trade penalties from Washington.

Developing even a small Iranian offshore oil field costs \$100 million, according to Tehran oil officials.

"The law will be a major irritant but it is not going to cripple Iran's oil complex," another Gulf economist said. The first key test for the scope of the new law could be a \$20 billion gas supply project between Iran

and Turkey. Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan held talks in Iran on Saturday which were expected to include arranging the gas deal which Ankara says would not conflict with the newly passed Iran-Libya sanctions law.

"According to this agreement, we are making investments on our own territory," a Turkish energy official said Saturday.

U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a primary architect behind the bill, has already called on the Clinton administration to press Turkey to abandon its plans for a gas deal with Iran.

Washington's key allies in Europe and Asia have denounced the extra-territorial nature of the bill.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh has said the law is doomed to

failure even before its implementation and that Iran's oil ministry is in negotiations with foreign firms interested in a flood of oil projects tendered last year.

Iranian oil officials stress that the state oil firm NIOC (National Iranian Oil Company) does not need foreign technology to carry out energy projects and NIOC has embarked on several projects on its own such as the first-phase development of the huge South Pars gas field.

With the government weighed down by foreign debt of more than \$40 billion, NIOC has had its allocated share of scarce foreign currency capped. But it is allowed to go to foreign firms who have better access to international capital.

Libra: (September 23 to October 23) A private affair or a letter you receive today can make you quite disturbed if you allow it to occur, however, later tonight your mate is very soothing and has the right approach to make your life less stress involved.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Plan how today to get rid of some difficulty, however, don't take any action yet at the celestial aspects are still unsure. Be romantically happy later tonight with your mate and show some affection towards him or her.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A matter from previous days comes up again today to aggravate you so be careful with your monies during the daytime. Later this evening you can meet with someone in authority and devise some new plan of action.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Try not to fuss over today something you can do little about or you can find yourself in a state of emotional turmoil. Gain the support of important people later this evening and with their assistance you can be successful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look to good friends for meaningful results today concerning your career activities and endeavour to get your ideas across. Be charming to others later this evening and you will notice some positive results occurring.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The daytime today may be a little worrisome for your loved ones, however, later tonight and interesting matter comes up and you are happy with the results which can be promising towards your success in the days ahead.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 1996
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be alert and alive today to new projects and don't fuss with old ones at this time since you must proceed on to new opportunities. Relieve any tensions you may be under this evening by relaxing with your loved ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Keep busy at practical affairs during the daytime today and forget amorous meandering. You'll get ahead faster if you take the advice this evening of some knowledgeable person who can prove you with the right answers.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use care in conversations today with bigwigs and also your mate to avoid a disagreement which will not solve any adverse conditions. You get ideas to express your talents in terms of your career activities at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You feel that you are disregarded by a close friend today, however, don't let this disturb you since there is nothing you can do about the situation. Later this evening you can meet with a bigwig and discuss your ideas for success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid an older person today who has been taking up too much of your time concerning career activities and proceed at your own pace. You can gain long-awaited wishes which you have developed some plan of action.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Improve your health today since charm alone does not work today with that person important to you. Later this evening will be good for you to meet with some close friends in some recreations which are enjoyable.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) A private affair or a letter you receive today can make you quite disturbed if you allow it to occur, however, later tonight your mate is very soothing and has the right approach to make your life less stress involved.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Plan how today to get rid of some difficulty, however, don't take any action yet at the celestial aspects are still unsure. Be romantically happy later tonight with your mate and show some affection towards him or her.

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Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

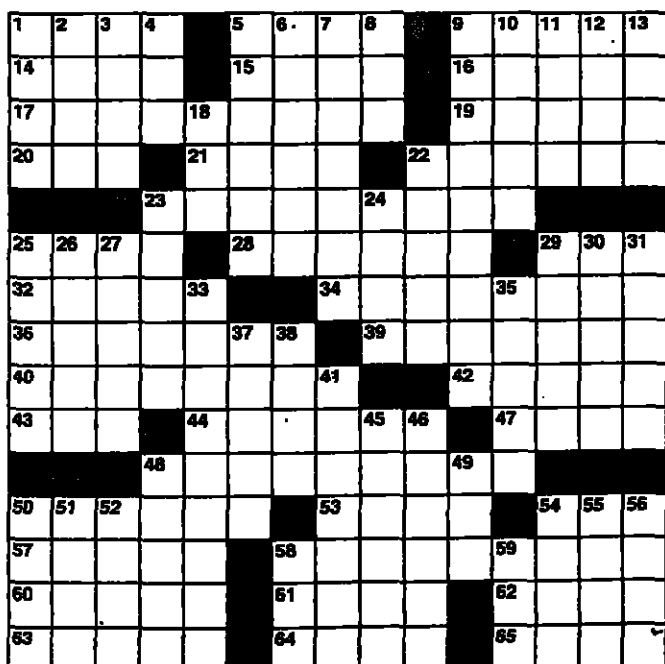
THE Daily Crossword by Stephen Floeck

ACROSS

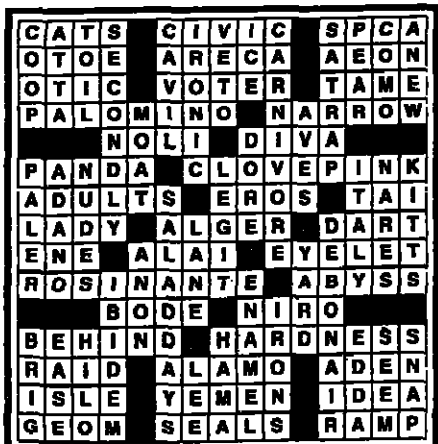
- 1 Dusting powder
- 5 Gemstone
- 9 Chemical compound
- 14 Samoan capital
- 15 Frigga's husband
- 16 Land or sea end
- 17 Revived, in a way
- 19 Inflamed spots
- 20 Wood chopper
- 21 Come upon
- 22 Certain socialites
- 23 Depict
- 25 Great party
- 28 By reason of this
- 29 Converse
- 32 Transfer a plant
- 34 Hygienic
- 36 Qom native
- 39 Certain Russian lady: var.
- 40 Subtle distinctions
- 42 Restrict
- 43 Turn to the right
- 44 Laundry worker
- 47 Vegetable
- 48 Abundance
- 50 Brands
- 53 Serawny
- 54 Legume
- 57 Ancient Greek marketplace
- 58 Blushing
- 60 Suburb of Ft. Worth
- 61 Russian city
- 62 Medicinal plant
- 63 Hindu queen
- 64 Abstract being
- 65 Church benches

DOWN

- 1 Scarlett's home
- 2 Highest point
- 3 Biography
- 4 Elevator cage
- 5 Pulitzer
- 6 Citing
- 7 Calorie counters
- 8 Conclude
- 9 Indispensable
- 10 Sir Walter



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- 11 Sailors
- 12 Dueling sword
- 13 What's left
- 18 Linguistic suffix
- 22 Denim pants
- 23 European river
- 24 Membership
- 25 Convey
- 26 Elevated dwelling
- 27 The last frontier
- 29 Peruvian tennis star, Yzaga
- 30 A Palmer
- 31 Lawman Earp
- 33 Tickle
- 35 Clan
- 37 Buenos —
- 38 Sign type
- 41 Concealed attackers
- 45 Chopin works
- 46 Ladder step
- 48 Intrinsically
- 49 Color
- 50 "Cowardly lion"
- 51 Water: Sp.
- 52 "— on the Fourth of July"
- 54 Stack
- 55 Plenty, to poets
- 56 Long time
- 58 Fish eggs
- 59 Doze

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Andy Capp



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Jordan stock prices return to 140-point level

AMMAN (R) — Jordanian stocks held firm at start of weekly trade on Saturday with enough buying support to bring prices above the key 140-point psychological barrier, dealers said.

The official Amman Financial Market (AFM) 60-share index rose 0.30 per cent to 140.25 points from 139.84 points on Wednesday.

A total of 324,796 shares changed hands in healthy 930,561 dinar turnover dominated by a large block sale in Arab Bank.

The market broke the 140-point barrier at the end of June and has since slid to levels not reached since 1993 but has begun to witness since start of last week a gradual pickup in trade.

The market was closed Sunday to mark King Hussein's accession to the throne. Business will resume Monday.

The AFM has a five-day trading week with trade suspended on Thursday and Friday, the local weekend.

Of 44 stocks traded, nineteen advanced, eight declined and seventeen stocks were unchanged. One posted a year low.

Dealers said the market continued to witness healthy deals by institutional players on select industrial, focusing on pharmaceutical and chemical firms in particular.

This has helped improve bearish sentiment that has recently prevailed in the market, with a wait-and-see mood among investors awaiting renewed institutional activity to reactivate stagnant trade now primarily limited to floor traders.

Investors eye half-year results and any signs of a possible easing of interest rates, after prices have dropped to near bottom levels. Along with lack of institutional support, the market has suffered since the start of the year from a liquidity crunch blamed on high interest rates to protect the dinar.

Large investors and institutions have avoided the market, which has fallen over 20 per cent this year, with most of the trading dominated by floor traders.

The May election of Israeli right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has compounded market woes, creating uncertainty over the future of the five-year-old Middle East peace process.

The Pearl investable index — an independent index of the 45 best-performing shares from the official market — rose 0.29 per cent to 81.22 points. It was 14.96 per cent down on last year.

Banks dominated on 580,106 dinar turnover and an index rise of 0.12 per cent. 'Industrials' had a 259,015 dinar turnover and index rise of 0.56 per cent, and services had a 83,600 dinar turnover and an index rise of 0.27 per cent.

A total of 204,950 shares worth 99,580 dinars changed hands in weak trade in the parallel market dominated by small deals. Six shares were higher, eight declined and seven were unchanged of 21 traded. None posted lows for the year.

Kuwait may privatise airline

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is considering a plan to privatise the national flag carrier Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC), the airline's chairman said in remarks published Saturday.

"The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) is considering this issue," Al Rai Al Aam newspaper quoted the chairman, Ahmad Al Meshari, as saying in an interview.

KIA, the state's investment arm, is supervising a plan to shed Kuwait's stake in some 60 local firms and later to privatise government holdings in services such as electricity, water and telecommunications.

The programme, announced after the 1991 Gulf war, is meant to increase the private sector's role in the state-orchestrated economy and refill state coffers depleted by war costs and reconstruction projects.

"As far as I understood from finance ministry officials, KAC's privatisation would come at a late stage (of the programme)," Mr. Meshari said without elaboration.

KAC has four Airbus 340-300s, three Airbus 310-300s, three Airbus 320-200s, five Airbus 300-600s and four Boeing 747-200s. It will take delivery of two Boeing 777s in 1998. The airline flies to 49 international destinations.

Only nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain — can take part in the privatisation programme.

Boeing buying Rockwell aerospace and defence units

SEATTLE (R) — The Boeing Co. has taken a giant step toward becoming the world's dominant aerospace company when it agreed to acquire Rockwell International Corp.'s space and defence businesses for \$3.2 billion.

Boeing, the world's biggest commercial airplane maker, and Rockwell, which built the U.S. space shuttles and played a major role in the Apollo moon missions, announced an agreement under which Boeing will acquire Rockwell's space and defence units for a combination of stock and the assumption of debt and other obligations.

The companies said in a joint statement that under the

agreement, Boeing will issue about \$860 million of its common stock and retain \$2.165 billion of Rockwell debt and assume certain pension obligations of Rockwell.

"This merger accelerates us on our way to achieving our 20-year vision, which calls for Boeing to be a fully integrated aerospace company designing, producing and supporting commercial airplanes, defence systems, and defence and civil space systems," Boeing president and chief executive Phil Condit said.

Among the major enterprises that Seattle-based Boeing is acquiring are Rockwell units that produce intercontinental and tactical missiles, the B-1B bomber, and rocket propulsion systems, including the space Shuttle main engines.

All the Rockwell units being acquired employ about 21,000 people and had sales of \$3.2 billion last year.

The new name of the acquired units will be Boeing North American Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Boeing. Boeing's defence and space group has some 30,000 employees.

Rockwell, which is based in Downey, California, said it is exiting the aerospace business to concentrate on its electronics and automated manufacturing businesses.

"This is a historic step in the continuing transformation of Rockwell, which has been shifting strategic focus to higher growth commercial and international businesses, with a particular focus on electronics," said Donald Beall, Rockwell's chairman and chief executive.

Before the deal is completed, which is expected later this year, Rockwell will transfer its automation, avionics, communications, semiconductor systems and automotive components businesses to a new company that will keep the Rockwell name.

The announcement said the new Rockwell will have projected sales of \$10b.

DHL Amman awarded ISO 9002

AMMAN (J.T.) — Upon sustaining international quality and reliability standards, DHL Worldwide Express Amman Station was awarded the ISO 9002 by Bureau Veritas Quality International — U.K.

The ISO certificate is an internationally recognised guarantee to customers; an assurance of reliability. To win the ISO 9002 accreditation DHL Amman has met the explicit requirements in the fields of management, process control, product tracing, statistical technique and identification.

DHL Amman was established in the late 1970's as a member of the Middle East region, and over the past twenty-five years, has been acknowledged as the regional and global leader in express distribution and logistics services. DHL intends to continue setting industry-leading standards of excellence.

As part of its continual worldwide service improvement, DHL has geared a quality improvement regional plan with the goal of meeting its customer expectations accredited for it through the ISO 9002.

DHL invests in highly qualified personnel and continuously upgrades its technical equipment.

Japanese bank lends \$550m loan for Qatari gas project

DOHA (R) — Qatar has signed a \$550 million loan with the Export-Import Bank of Japan to build a third liquefied natural gas (LNG) production unit at the Qatar Liquefied Gas Company complex (Qatargas), an official said.

Qatar's foreign minister and acting finance, economy and commerce minister Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani signed the loan, the Qatar News Agency reported.

It will cover 70 per cent of the third unit's cost, a Qatar General Petroleum Corp (QGPC) official said. The rest will come from Qatargas shareholders — QGPC, Mobil Corp., Total, Japan's Mitsui and Marubeni.

"It is repayable in 12 years, including a two-year grace period," the official told Reuters.

"Like all other loans raised by QGPC earlier, this loan is also on the limited recourse basis," he said, adding that the repayment is tied to the "soundness of the project and the shareholders have limited liability".

Qatargas's six million tonnes of annual gas production is committed to Japanese companies. It took \$2 billion in loans from four Japanese commercial banks in 1995 to fund the construction of two units, or "trains", whose four million tonnes annual production will start flowing to Japan's Chubu Electric Power Company from January 1999.

DAILY BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

Nearly nine per cent of homes in Jordan are vacant

** OFFICIAL STATISTICS show that there are 77,229 vacant residences in Jordan, or 9.2 per cent of the total number of houses in the Kingdom. A breakdown by type reveals that 43.1 per cent are ordinary houses, 53.9 per cent are apartments, 0.8 per cent are villas, 0.4 per cent are barracks and 1.7 per cent are classified as others. Amman accounts for 4.6 per cent of vacant residences and is followed by Zarqa at 3.2 per cent and Irbid at 2.1 per cent, the statistics show.

A field study prepared by the Housing and Urban Development Department shows that the total organised (slated for development) area of Amman is only 45.6 per cent of the total area of MoGA (the Municipality of Greater Amman). The total area allocated for organised purposes is 186,000 dunums representing 35.7 per cent of the organised area. An analysis of the figures indicates that the areas of land on which buildings of all categories have been constructed are 29 per cent less than the organised residential area of Amman, or about 10 per cent of the MoGA area.

The study, which examined the building situation in the cities, said the situation has improved in Irbid as the percentage of lands, on which buildings have been constructed, has reached 50.7 per cent of the total area organised for residential purposes. The percentage was less at 45.9 per cent in Zarqa.

Residents of apartments were increasing, the study said noting that the percentage of inhabited apartments to the total available residences is about 45 per cent. Another point that was examined in the study indicated that 51 per cent of the people in the Kingdom had complaints about lack of services or the distances to their work. This percentage falls down to 33 per cent in Amman.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.4755	0.6460	0.6031	106.20	0.6953	1366.5	1.6668	6.5590
DEM	0.6777	1.0000	0.4375	0.4062	163.33	0.5084	1036.82	1.2222	3.4240
GBP	1.5478	2.2857	1.0000	0.8548	160.33	0.5377	1253.36	1.4930	4.5560
CHF	1.6577	2.4571	1.1719	1.0000	166.37	0.5733	1324.75	1.5833	4.9333
JPY	0.0094	0.0061	0.0062	0.0060	1.0000	0.0079	173.63	0.0080	0.0074
CAD	0.7142	1.0444	0.5777	0.5392	127.02	1.0000	150.35	1.2173	3.6988
ITL	0.0007	0.0007	0.0008	0.0007	1492.52	0.0039	1.0000	10.92	3.3326
NG	0.6038	0.7357	0.3853	0.3550	85.30	0.8273	815.01	1.0000	3.0502
FRF	0.1578	0.2920	0.1278	0.1278	23.7851	0.2711	32.76	32.7600	1.0000

Only	Last	Previous
Brent	20.55	20.55
WTI	20.55	20.55
Brent	20.55	20.55
WTI	20.55	20.55
UL Gas	199.00	199.00

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.3935	0.17197	0.32071	28.8534
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4018	0.1756	0.32748	28.4724
KW Dinar	3.3434	4.9334	2.1551	4.02091	361.925
YR Dinar	0.2770	0.31389	0.13066	0.19081	287.109
CY Pound	2.1713	3.2038	1.3999	2.8101	234.935

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz)	387.5	388
Silver (oz)	5.04	5.06
Platinum (oz)	399.45	400.45
AL (5 Months)	1938	1943
CU (3 Months)	1938	1943
Lead (3 Months)	830	835
Zn (3 Months)	2720	2725

Period	1	3	6	9	12
USD	5.28	5.40	5.58	5.85	5.75
GBP	5.75	5.81	5.88	5.81	5.88
JPY	0.32	0.50	0.59	0.86	0.87
DEM	3.12	3.19	3.08	3.25	3.25
FRF	3.73	3.73	4.03	4.05	4.15
CHF	2.10	2.12	2.12	2.37	2.28
ITL	8.90	8.84	8.82	8.80	8.40

Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Ch	
New York	DOW JONES	5681.31	-32.18	-0.55	5729.03	5647.83	5713.49
London	FT-SE 100	3810.7	-4.9	-0.07	3853.37	3803.31	3825.59
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20581.05	-180.28	-0.87	20774.8	20492.5	20731.3
Hong Kong	HK 40	1888.54	-7.85	-0.39	1898.84	1880.49	1897.42
Amman	JASX	2523.84	-42.51	-1.66	2566.35	2521.76	2538.15

Commodity	Unit	Price
Crude (c/b)	Spot	122.83
Crude (c/b)	1 Month	122.83
Sugar (c/b)	Spot	385
Soybean (c/b)	Spot	24.85
Soybean (c/b)	1 Month	24.85
Barley (c/b)	Spot	3.54
Barley (c/b)	1 Month	3.54

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	0.710	0.710	0.710
DEM	1.2585	1.0000	0.4375	0.4062	163.33
GBP	1.5478	2.2857	1.0000	0.8548	160.33
CHF	1.6577	2.4571	1.1719	1.0000	166.37
JPY	0.0094	0.0061	0.0062	0.0060	1.0000
CAD	0.7142	1.0444	0.5777	0.5392	127.02
ITL	0.0007	0.0007	0.0008	0.0007	1492.52
NG	0.6038	0.7357	0.3853	0.3550	85.30
FRF	0.1578	0.2920	0.1278	0.1278	23.7851

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Villeneuve holds off Hill to win in Hungary

BUDAPEST, Hungary (R) — Canadian Jacques Villeneuve scored his third Formula One victory Sunday when he finished narrowly ahead of Williams teammate Damon Hill in an exciting Hungarian Grand Prix.

The result, a convincing 1-2 by the Williams team, secured for them their eighth and record-equaling Constructors Championship and kept alive Villeneuve's hopes of winning the drivers' title.

Villeneuve's triumph cut Hill's lead at the head of the championship race from 21 points to 17 with four races remaining. In the team championship, Williams secured the crown with a total of 141 points, 90 more than nearest rivals Benetton.

Both Ferraris once again failed to finish at the end of a tumultuous contest after double world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany dropped out while running third six laps from the end and teammate Briton Eddie Irvine pulled up in the early stages.

Frenchman Jean Alesi, driving a Benetton, finished third to claim his fifth podium finish in six races while his teammate, Austrian Gerhard Berger, dropped out with what appeared to be engine failure.

Mika Hakkinen of Finland, driving a McLaren, finished fourth, one lap down on the leaders but ahead of Frenchman Olivier Panis in a Ligier and Brazilian Rubens Barrichello in a Jordan.

Only nine of the 20 starters completed the race. Villeneuve finishing the 77 laps in one hour 46 minutes and 21.134 seconds.

Villeneuve's revival, adding to his earlier victories in the European Grand Prix at the Neuburg in April and the British Grand Prix at Silverstone last month, still leaves him a chance of following his triumph in the IndyCar Championship last year with a world Formula One title.

The race was largely a procession affair interrupted only by the pit stops which enabled Villeneuve to take the lead in succession to Schumacher after 20 laps.

The Canadian stayed there for most of the remainder of the race except for a five lap spell before Hill pitted for the third time, leaving the Briton to chase him to the flag where he finished just seven tenths of a second behind.

Villeneuve was understandably delighted. "It was great, especially because I was able to beat Damon on that track. I don't usually like that kind of circuit but this victory has made me

very happy.

"Early in the race, I felt I was quicker than Michael Schumacher but I couldn't pass him until we had a better pit stop and then he was caught in the traffic.

The Canadian said he was worried his final pit stop could have cost him the race.

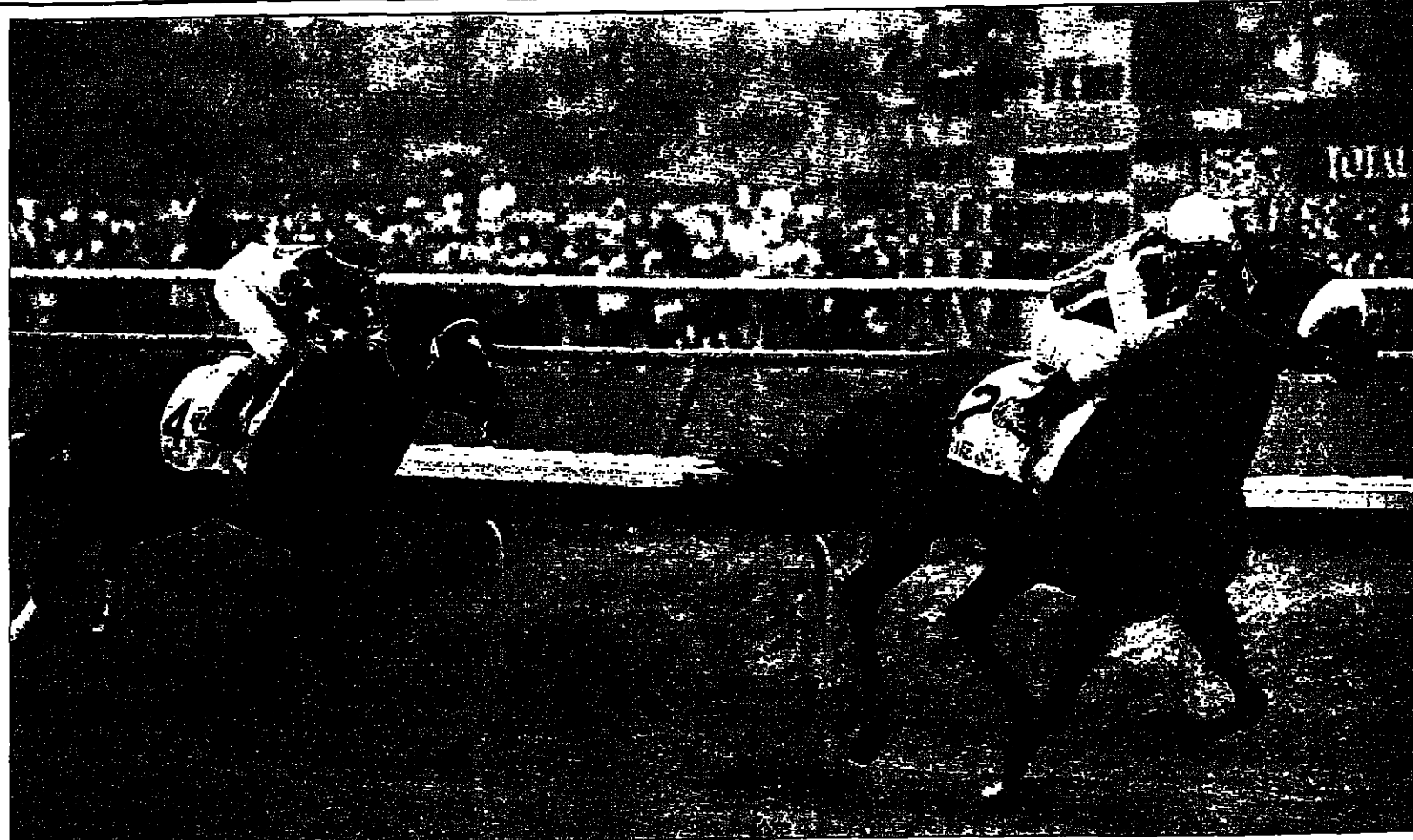
"At my third pit stop I lost 10 seconds with a wheel problem which even though I had a huge lead was a lot of time," he said.

"I was worried as Damon began to get closer so I pushed harder and concentrated on making no mistakes. Now we have won the constructor's title it will be a big fight with Damon from now on."

Hill said his bad start could have cost him the race.

"Once again I had a poor start and paid the price. I got held up behind Jean Alesi and he did everything I would have expected to stay on the line and it left me with lots to do.

"But in the end I'm happy. Williams have won the constructor's title, I had a great race and I am delighted we had another 1-2. So far as the championship is concerned, it's going to be great for the viewers and tough for us. I'm looking forward to the last four races."



Alex Solis on Dare And Go (right) pulls away from the favoured Cigar (left) in the \$1 million Pacific Classic at the Del Mar Fairgrounds Saturday. Dare and Go, a 40-1 long shot, upset Cigar's bid to break Citation's record of 16 straight wins (Reuter photo)

Cigar fails in bid to make horse racing history

DEL MAR, California (R) — Wonder horse Cigar failed Saturday in his bid for a record 17th consecutive win, losing the \$1 million Pacific Classic by three and a half lengths to 35-1 outsider Dare And Go.

Cigar, the overwhelming 1-9 favourite, came off the final turn slightly ahead of the Brazilian horse Siphon, but had nothing left when Dare And Go challenged on the outside and went past him in the middle of the final stretch. Siphon, who led for most of the 1-1/4-mile race finished third at 6-1.

"I could tell on the back side he was not full of run like he usually is," said jockey Jerry Bailey, who also had ridden Cigar in the world's richest race in Dubai last March.

"I'm certainly not putting the blame on him. I didn't think it was a killer pace, but when I got to the three-eighths pole, if somebody was going to come at me I was going to be in trouble today."

"We have absolutely no excuses...except maybe for the fast pace," said trainer Bill Mott after one of the biggest upsets in recent racing history.

"Naturally I am disappointed we lost, disappointed in myself that we did not plan the race out a little differently."

ferently.

But Cigar has created a lot of interest and new fans for horse racing," said Mott.

Cigar, a six-year-old colt owned by Allen Paulson, had earned the chance to surpass the 16 consecutive wins achieved by the great Citation in 1948-50.

Cigar — described by one racegoer in the paddock as "built like (basketball star) Michael Jordan: long, lean and sinewy" — tied Citation's record when he won the Arlington Citation Challenge outside Chicago on July 13.

Despite the loss, Cigar's streak has put him in the pantheon of great horses with Citation, Man O'War, Affirmed, Secretariat and Seattle Slew.

"This kind of horse is a once-in-a-lifetime thing," said Mott.

Dare And Go's trainer Dick Mandella was full of praise for Cigar. "The only way to keep horses unbeaten is not to race them. So give credit to his owner and trainer for keeping him running."

Back in March, Cigar showed his class with his 14th consecutive win in the six-horse field, but was withdrawn Wednesday with a pulled ligament in the right foreleg.



Dare And Go's jockey Alex Solis (right) is congratulated by California Governor Pete Wilson (left) after upsetting Cigar in the \$1 million Pacific Classic in Del Mar Saturday (Reuter photo)

Cup run on sand in the Gulf emirate. That day, Cigar beat Soul Of The Matter by half a length.

For the Pacific Classic here, Soul Of The Matter had been expected to be a serious challenge to Cigar in the six-horse field, but was withdrawn Wednesday with a pulled ligament in the right foreleg.

But Bailey had ridden Cigar for all but one of the 16 wins.

But Bailey had never before raced at Del Mar, a scenic racetrack on the Pacific coast some 32 kilometres north of San Diego and 160 kilometres south of Los Angeles.

A record crowd of more than 44,000 attended,

including movie star Bo Derek and California Governor Pete Wilson, who was taking time out from preparing for the Republican National Convention starting in San Diego Monday.

"It's a good way to be away from the other stuff for a few hours," he told reporters.

Top sprinter Anabaa makes it six out of six

DEAUVILLE, France (R) — Anabaa, the high class sprinter from the Crique Head Stable, continued his perfect season Sunday, cruising to victory in the Group 1 Prix Maurice De Gheest.

Anabaa, taking his 1996 score to six out of six, settled

easily in fifth position under Freddie Head, as Poplar Bluff, Blue Duster and Young Ern were fastest away.

However, the 2-1 On Chance was cantering throughout and made effortless progress to lead over a furlong (200 metres) out when

most of the rest were under heavy pressure.

Anabaa sailed into the lead and Head was not hard on him once he felt the race was won.

The colt was eased down to score by a length and a half from Miesque's Son, the mount of cash Asmussen,

Danehill Dancer, who finished third under Ray Cochrane, did best of the English raiders.

Fancied English filly Blue Duster raced prominently but faded at the business end to finish fifth of the nine runners.

Zanardi holds pole in Indycar Race

LEXINGTON, Ohio (R) — Italian Alex Zanardi held onto the pole for Sunday's Miller 200 Indycar Race with a record qualifying performance at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

Zanardi's best lap was 66.339 seconds (122.100 mph/196.496 kph) on the 13-turn, 3.62 kilometre road course.

The lap before he had nailed a 66.431-second lap, already better than now-Formula One rookie Jacques Villeneuve's

66.836 record lap of a year ago. And Zanardi said he was poised to go even faster on his last lap than his pole-winning time.

"The last lap I had to stop because (team owner) Chip Ganassi was screaming on the radio," Zanardi said. "But I was going to go even faster than that."

He beat out his teammate Jimmy Vasser, the series points leader. It was the third pole of the year for the rookie Zanardi, and he and Vasser will start one-two for

the fifth time this year.

Vasser, who had turned a lap of 66.621 seconds moments before Zanardi's torrid run, did not try to surpass the Italian.

"We pulled in then to save the tyres for the race, for whatever reason," said Vasser, a four-race winner and the points leader by one over Al Unser Jr.

"But I don't know if we had a 66.3-second lap in us anyway."

Bryan Herta, who wound up third, did not. His best lap time was 66.878, but he thought Sunday's race could be a different matter.

His hope is that the Goodyear tires on his car, and on number four Michael Andretti's, may have more consistency in racing trim than the sticky Firestones on the cars of Zanardi and Vasser.

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at the Du Maurier Open



Brazil's Botafogo's Marcelo Alves (right) and Juventus' Vladimir Jugovic jump for a high ball during the final of the Teresa Herrera tournament (Reuter photo)

Botafogo beat Juventus on penalties to win La Coruna final

LA CORUNA, Spain (R) — Brazil's Botafogo won the annual Teresa Herrera Tournament Saturday when they beat European champions Juventus 3-0 on penalties after drawing 4-4 with a penalty in the last minute of extra time.

Juventus dominated the first half and striker Christian Vieri put the team from Turin 1-0 ahead in the 23rd minute. But Botafogo equalized for Botafogo in the 49th minute.

As the game heated up so did tempers. Italian defender Moreno Torricelli and Brazilian midfielder Otacilio were both sent off in the 77th minute after a confrontation on the pitch.

The Brazilians' fine physical form kept them fighting back in the second half and the match went into extra time with the score at 2-2 after goals from Juventus' Nicola Amoroso in the 74th and Botafogo's Ricardo Franca one minute later.

Amoroso scored again two minutes into extra time and Botafogo again equalized.



Brazilian Botafogo players Marcos Aurelio (left) and Grotto celebrate after beating European champions Juventus in the final of the Teresa Herrera tournament. (Reuter photo)

Seles, Sanchez to meet for Canadian title

MONTREAL (R) — Top seed Monica Seles and second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario had little trouble in Saturday's semifinals and advanced to the final of the \$926,250 Canadian Open.

Defending champion Seles, co-ranked world number one, defeated unseeded Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia 6-0 6-3 while the second-ranked Sanchez Vicario beat unseeded American Kimberly Po 6-0 6-4.

Sunday's final will be the first meeting with Sanchez Vicario since Seles returned to tennis exactly a year ago at the Canadian Open after a 27-month absence.

Sanchez Vicario was widely reported as opposing the special ranking given Seles after she was stabbed in Hamburg in April, 1993.

But after beating Po the Spaniard downplayed any suggestion that the final would be a grudge match.

"I don't think we ever had a rivalry," said Sanchez Vicario. "It will just be another match for me, nothing to do with rankings or anything like that."

As for Seles, she also refused to make too much of

it. "I know there's been a lot of stuff about the co-ranking," said Seles.

"I always felt Arantxa got the roughest end of it because everyone else kind of stayed where they were. It definitely wasn't fair for her."

Sanchez Vicario as the number two-ranked player dropped to the third seed at many tournaments with co-ranked number ones Steffi Graf and Seles ahead of her.

Seles has a 10-1 head-to-head advantage over Sanchez Vicario, but in their second to last meeting in the 1992 final of the Canadian Open, Sanchez Vicario won 6-3 4-6 6-4.

Three weeks later, in their latest meeting, Seles gained revenge with a 6-3 6-3 victory in the final of the U.S. Open.

Although Seles lost only seven points Saturday in a 19-minute first set marked by the 31st-ranked Basuki's inability to keep the ball in play, she wasn't pleased.

"I played pretty tentatively at times and my serve was really off," she said. "I'm not comfortable with my ball toss at all."

Like Basuki — who upset third seed Iva Majoli of



Second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain returns a backhand return to Kimberly Po of the United States during their semifinal match at the Du Maurier Open in Montreal, August 10. Sanchez Vicario won the match 6-0 6-4 (Reuter photo)

Croatia, 13th seed Amy Frazier of the United States and 16th seed Elena Likhovtseva of Russia — the 90th-ranked Po had beaten number four seed Anke Huber of Germany and fifth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez.

But in Saturday's semi-

final against Sanchez Vicario she made 34 unforced errors to Sanchez Vicario's 14.

"It was pretty easy at the beginning," said Sanchez Vicario. "But Kimberly started to play better in the second set. It was a good match for me because I

took the ball early and she was probably surprised that I went for my shots."

Looking ahead to playing Seles, Sanchez Vicario said: "I've just got to stay aggressive and go for my shots because she won't miss and she'll run down everything."

Agassi, Chang repeat in ATP Championship final

MASON, Ohio (R) — For the second consecutive year, Andre Agassi and Michael Chang will vie for the ATP Championship title, Agassi after beating Thomas Muster and Chang after defeating Thomas Enqvist in Saturday's semifinals.

Agassi, the defending champion and sixth seed coming off a recent high of winning the Olympic gold medal, controlled second-seeded Muster throughout his 6-4 6-1 semifinal victory.

"I think my motivation is real simple," Agassi said. "He is the number two in the world and he has been playing some good tennis.

so I want to go out there and prove that I can win the match."

The third-seeded Chang reached his fourth straight ATP Championship final — he won in 1993 and 1994 — with a 6-1 2-6 6-2 semifinal win over 10th-seeded Enqvist.

The seventh-ranked Agassi has a 10-6 career edge over Chang, but Chang won two of their three meetings this year.

Agassi, who is now 4-4 in career matches with Muster, put on an iron-clad performance. He consistently took the ball on the rise, kept Muster pinned to the baseline and jerked the Austrian around the court.

On a number of occasions, Agassi kept Muster glued to the baseline, then won the point with a crafty drop shot.

"You find yourself thinking about a lot of things, about other matches and about how this guy matches into this guy's game and you go to sleep at night dreaming about Thomas Muster," Agassi said. "He wasn't necessarily in my dreams. But he was there before I fell asleep."

The left-handed Muster admittedly had no answer for Agassi's onslaught.

"Today, he just played better than me," Muster said. "In the second set, in the end, he just let it roll on.

He just cracked every ball. That is too good."

Prior to the semifinals, Muster had not lost his serve nor a set in the three matches he played. Against Agassi, he lost his serve five times.

Third-ranked Chang scored his first career victory over 12th-ranked Enqvist, who had won their three previous outings.

Chang served 11 aces to Enqvist's four during the one hour, 44 minute match.

"Today, I don't think I served very well," Enqvist said. "I was trying to play aggressive and I have to be on top of the points all the time to beat Michael."

The American raced to a

5-0 lead in the first set before Enqvist held his serve in the next game.

But Chang wasn't counting Enqvist out of the match.

"All the Swedes are not the ones to keel over and ever say too good," Chang said. "I definitely expected he'd start playing well and he started playing well in the second set."

Enqvist scored two service breaks in the second set, in the sixth and eighth games.

In the final set, Chang went ahead 4-0 before Enqvist started to work his way back into the match, but the effort was too late for the Swede.

Manchester United cut Newcastle down to size

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United thrashed Newcastle 4-0 in the Charity Shield at Wembley Sunday as Alex Ferguson's men blew apart Kevin Keegan's talented outfit.

Eric Cantona, Nicky Butt, David Beckham and Roy Keane found the net as last year's league and F.A. Cup double winners added another trophy to their sideboard.

Cantona, the man who scored the winner in the F.A. Cup final, again proved the man for the big occasion by getting the opening goal after 25 minutes. Beckham threaded a through ball to an unmarked Cantona out on the right and he took his time before firing past Pavel Srnicek.

United added a second on the half-hour when Beckham drove in a cross after a clever back heel by Can-

tona and Nicky Butt powered a header home.

United coasted to a comfortable victory by adding further goals in the 86th and 88th minutes.

Beckham, who had played so impressively throughout the match, flicked the ball over the advancing srnicek after being released by Cantona.

Then Keane made it 4-0 two minutes later with a fierce shot following a rolled free-kick from gigs.

It's not often Manchester United fans are outnumbered, but they were here as Alan Shearer, the £15 million (\$22.5 million) world record signing, took centre stage against the double winners.

Shearer gave a damning assessment of his new team's performance.

"We were hopeless in the first half and not much better in the second," he said.

"We can get a lot better but there isn't going to be any magic wand. We aren't suddenly going to start scoring goals from everywhere."

But Shearer said he was confident Newcastle will quickly improve.

"We were pretty desperate and we are all disappointed — but the season hasn't started yet," he said. "We wanted to win, but really this was just another pre-season friendly."

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson was delighted with his team's performance — and the way they countered the threat of Shearer.

"They say Shearer is the best, but he was playing against the best in Gary Pallister," he said. "Pallister was marvellous."

Ferguson said United had played well as a team, but was pleased with the per-

formances of new signings Jordi Cruyff and Karel Podborsky.

"They showed enough today for our fans to know they have class," he said. "They will be value for money."

Cantona carried on from where he left off in last

May's F.A. Cup final by putting in another virtuoso display.

Apart from his goal, he started off the move which led to the second with a spectacular backheel, slipped the ball through to Beckham for the third, and was named the official man of the match.

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Mr. Erbakan is expected to visit Pakistan, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia on his 10-day tour which started in Iran.

LONGEST SANDWICH: Hundreds of students make the world's longest sandwich at a stadium in the southern Taiwanese city of Kaohsiung Sunday. The organisers said hundreds of teenagers took part in the project to make what they said was the world's longest sandwich. 600 metres (Reuters photo)

"We (the Israeli embassy in Amman) don't know why the Jordanian embassy took this decision...and we have not been informed of this measure by the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv, although it is possible that the embassy approached the Israeli foreign ministry," said the source. He added that the embassy does not intend to make any procedural changes in issuing visas to Jordanians.

"It is not exactly clear according to this survey which policy towards the Palestinians the public wishes the government to pursue," the report's authors wrote.

One detainee, Ayman Al Sabbah, quoted a guard called Abu Sakhra (as saying that "anyone who does-

Ismail Raja, a civil engineer detained in March, said he and the other 12 had been freed after signing a commitment to respect the authority and shun violence.

Final peace talks between the Palestinians and Israel began before Israel's May 29 national elections but have yet to resume under Mr. Netanyahu, who has so far resisted meeting Palestinian self-rule authority President Yasser Arafat.

the end of a hard week's work. She unwinds by simply sitting alone in the field and reading, taking in the view, or listening to the birds.

view, or listening to the bird-song.

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